EXHIBIT "B-2"

Deposition of John Jewett (Vol. II)

J.J. and J.B. v. DGG TASER, Inc., et al

Leon County, FL Second Judicial Circuit

Case No. 37-2005 CA 001569

1 IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA 2 3 CASE NO. 37-2005 CA 001569 4 J.J. and J.B., Plaintiffs, 5 vs. 6 DGG TASER, INC., a Florida For Profit Corporation, and TASER INTERNATIONAL, INC., a Delaware For 7 Profit Corporation, Defendants. 8 9 CONTINUED -- VOLUME II DEPOSITION OF: JOHN JEWETT TAKEN AT THE INSTANCE OF: The DEFENDANT 12 DATE: April 14, 2006 13 TIME: Commenced at 1:30 p.m. Concluded at 4:05 p.m. 14 LOCATION: 822 North Monroe 15 Tallahassee, FL 16 REPORTED BY: JUDY CHIN RPR, CRR 17 18 19 20

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9 Thereupon,

10 JOHN JEWETT

- 11 was called as a witness, having been first duly
- 12 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:
- 13 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 14 BY MR. ROPER
- 15 Q Mr. Jewett, we are back on the record.
- 16 I think when we stopped I was asking you about the
- 17 details surrounding your exposure to the Taser
- 18 weapon on January 26, 2004?
- 19 A Yes.
- 20 Q Let me recap a couple things. First of
- 21 all, is your recollection that the person that was
- 22 exposed to the Taser immediately before you was
- 23 Ali Perbtani?
- A I can't say immediately, but he is the
- 25 only one that I remember that went before me.

- 1 Q And for the court reporter, A L I, P E R
- 2 BTANI.
- 3 Do you have a recollection of whether he
- 4 was the only person before you or were there other

- 5 people exposed as well?
- 6 A I don't remember for sure. I know he
- 7 went before me. I know there wasn't like a bunch.
- 8 There may have been like one person between him
- 9 and me. I just don't remember.
- 10 Q Was this training session filmed or
- 11 recorded in any way, to your knowledge?
- 12 A I don't remember. I honestly don't
- 13 remember.
- 14 Q You don't remember anyone there with a
- 15 video camera?
- 16 A I'm not saying there wasn't. I just
- 17 don't remember.
- 18 Q Now, if you will explain to me, there
- 19 was a difference between the manner in which
- 20 Perbtani was exposed to the Taser as compared with
- 21 what you were exposed, correct?
- A In the way that the leads were attached
- 23 to the body, yes.
- Q In his instance, the weapon was actually
- 25 fired and the two probes went into his body?

- 1 A Yes.
- 2 Q Describe for me exactly how the probes
- 3 were attached to your body for your exposure.
- 4 A As you are aware, there are two wires
- 5 that come out of the weapon or cartridge, and then
- 6 the barbs are on the end.
- 7 After Mr. Perbtani was exposed, those
- 8 barbs were cut, torn, however the bars were
- 9 removed, which left two wires with nothing on the
- 10 end.
- 11 The wires were subsequently taped, one
- 12 to my upper left shoulder -- or the back of my
- 13 left shoulder and one to the back of my left hip,
- 14 they were taped there (indicating).
- 15 Q All right. What I want to try to do as
- 16 carefully as possible is try to get the exact
- 17 location of where the probes were taped.
- You were indicating for me as you were
- 19 testifying -- I can see where you were pointing
- 20 to. Let's try to do it for the record, if we can.
- 21 First of all, you are indicating the
- 22 back of your left shoulder area?

- A Yes. My left scapula, I guess it is
- 24 what it is called.
- Q Was the lead taped approximately in the 87
 - 1 middle of your shoulder?
- 2 A Well, I provided pictures.
- 3 MR. MOYE: Off the record for a second.
- 4 (Discussion off the record.)
- 5 BY MR. ROPER
- 6 Q What I'll do for the record, we will
- 7 mark copies of these as Exhibits 1, 2 and 3 to the
- 8 deposition.
- 9 Let me show you a photograph, sir, which
- 10 I will mark a copy as Exhibit 1 to your
- 11 deposition.
- 12 (Exhibit No. 1 marked for
- 13 identification.)
- 14 BY MR. ROPER
- 15 Q First of all, the person in the picture
- 16 is you, correct?
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 Q And there are two little burn marks, one

- 19 on your left shoulder there and down on the left
- 20 hip area?
- A Yes.
- Q Is that the location in which the leads
- 23 from the Taser weapon were taped to your body?
- 24 A Yes.
- Q When was that photograph taken? 88
- 1 A It would have been within days of the
- 2 date I was exposed. I couldn't tell you the exact
- 3 day. That was a Friday, I believe, the training,
- 4 and I believe this would have been either the
- 5 Saturday or Sunday.
- 6 Q Okay.
- 7 And this photograph here which I will
- 8 mark as Exhibit 2, that's a close up of the burn
- 9 mark?
- 10 A On my hip.
- 11 (Exhibit No. 2 marked for
- 12 identification.)
- 13 BY MR. ROPER
- 14 Q Exhibit 3 is the burn mark on your

- 15 shoulder?
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 (Exhibit No. 3 marked for
- 18 identification.)
- 19 BY MR. ROPER
- Q Have these burn areas healed?
- A They don't look like that any more.
- The one on my hip, you can still see it.
- 23 It is not as bad.
- 24 The one on my shoulder has kind of --
- 25 it's changed. It is now a raised -- I don't know 89
- 1 what you call it. You can definitely see it.
- 2 There is definitely a discoloration. It looks
- 3 like a healed wound of some sort.
- 4 Q They are still visible to some extent?
- 5 A Yes. The one on my shoulder especially.
- 6 Q Do you recall who it was that taped the
- 7 leads to you?
- 8 A I believe it was the instructor. I'm
- 9 pretty sure.
- 10 Q Who was holding you on your side when

- 11 you were exposed?
- 12 A As best I can remember, it was Ali
- 13 Perbtani, who is a deputy sheriff, and then Jeff
- 14 Coleman, who is a lieutenant now.
- 15 Q Do you recall being given any
- 16 instructions before you were exposed by the
- 17 instructor in terms of what you should or
- 18 shouldn't do?
- 19 A Um-hum.
- Q What did he say?
- 21 A I remember him telling us as a group --
- From what I remember, it was more for
- 23 the instructions for the people holding them than
- 24 it was necessarily for the one getting exposed.
- 25 That the person was going to be standing up, the 90
- 1 person getting exposed, the person on the side
- 2 supports him by the arm, to grab him, to not let
- 3 him fall, hold him up, and once the cycle had run
- 4 its course, to gently let them go to their knees.
- 5 Q So the instructions were to keep holding
- 6 them in a standing position during the five-second

- 7 cycle?
- 8 A Yes. And not let them fall.
- 9 Q And then let them down to the ground
- 10 after the five-second cycle?
- 11 A If I remember right, they said they are
- 12 going to naturally want to go to their knees, they
- 13 will kind of want to collapse, don't let them fall
- 14 after the cycle is done, let them go to their
- 15 knees.
- 16 Q Now, you assisted in holding Mr.
- 17 Perbtani before you were exposed, correct?
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 Q And you were able to see and feel what
- 20 happened to his body, correct?
- A I could see. I don't want to say feel.
- 22 Q You felt him tense, right?
- A Yeah, I guess you could say I felt him
- 24 tense.
- Q And you felt him and saw him raise up 91
- 1 onto his toes?
- 2 A He went up on his tiptoes, yes.

- 3 Q Do you have a conscious recollection of
- 4 what your body did during the time that you were
- 5 being exposed to the Taser?
- 6 A I just remember --
- 7 I don't think I went up on my tiptoes
- 8 like he did. I just remember having everything
- 9 getting real tight. I think I just tightened up
- 10 and just remember a God awful amount of pain. I
- 11 mean, that's really all that I remember. I didn't
- 12 lose conscious or anything. I am not trying to
- 13 insinuate that. I just remember immense pain.
- 14 Q When you say you felt everything tighten
- 15 up, what part of your body are you talking about?
- 16 A From toe to the top of my head.
- 17 Q And why do you say that you don't think
- 18 you went up on your tiptoes?
- 19 A I just don't specifically remember doing
- 20 it. Somebody watching me would probably have a
- 21 better vantage point. I just don't remember doing
- 22 it.
- 23 Q During that five-second cycle, where

- 24 were you experiencing pain?
- 25 A I mean, have you ever -- 92
- 1 Everywhere. I mean, it's like when you
- 2 kind of get shocked by a wall socket or something
- 3 along that line, it resonates through your whole
- 4 body. There wasn't one area during those five
- 5 seconds that was worse or not as bad. I just
- 6 remember --
- 7 It's hard to put in words. It is a pain
- 8 I never felt before. It was just over my whole
- 9 body.
- 10 Q The pain or discomfort that you were
- 11 experiencing was not limited to the left side of
- 12 your body between the area of the two probes?
- 13 A Not during the cycle. Ugh-ugh.
- 14 Q Do you have any recollection --
- 15 I know you told me that you felt your
- 16 whole body get tight, I think those were your
- 17 words; correct?
- 18 A That's the best words I come up with.
- 19 Again, I want to stress it is hard to

- 20 explain. It is not like a pain of getting burned
- 21 or someone punching you. It is a pain that is
- 22 hard to explain. That's the best I can explain
- 23 it.
- Q Do you recall any particular movements
- 25 that your body made during the time that you were
- 1 being exposed to the Taser?
- 2 A As far as actually moving, I don't
- 3 believe I moved much at all. One, I was being
- 4 held in place by those other two officers. I
- 5 don't think --
- 6 I mean logic would tell you it is an
- 7 electrocution-type thing that your body would
- 8 probably -- but I don't remember any of that.
- 9 Q That's what I'm after. I'm after what
- 10 your actual recollection is from that day.
- 11 A I don't remember ever moving, not until
- 12 they allowed me to go to my knees.
- 13 Q Do you have any specific recollection of
- 14 either bending forward with your torso or bending
- 15 backward with your torso while you were being

- 16 exposed to the Taser?
- 17 A No.
- 18 Q And when I say exposed to the Taser, you
- 19 know I'm talking about the five-second cycle of
- 20 electricity?
- A Right. I don't remember moving during
- 22 that five seconds.
- Q Do you remember saying anything during
- 24 the five-second cycle?
- A Impossible to even talk.

- 1 Q Do you remember anyone saying anything
- 2 to you or hearing anything during the five-second
- 3 cycle?
- 4 A They could have had a band playing
- 5 behind me and I don't think I would have heard it.
- 6 Q What do you recall happening after the
- 7 five-second cycle was over?
- 8 A I remember an immense pain in my back.
- 9 This was the first time that it was centralized in
- 10 my back -- in my whole back. And it went down to
- 11 my knees, and I remember I couldn't breathe. I

- 12 felt like I had -- had the wind knocked out of me
- 13 very, very badly.
- 14 Q Do you recall experiencing all those
- 15 things while you were still being held up?
- 16 A Well, you mean right as the cycle is
- 17 done, they are allowing you to go to your knees;
- 18 so, no.
- 19 I remember the pain as I was standing,
- 20 and then I remember on my knees when it started to
- 21 centralize itself toward my back, when I couldn't
- 22 breathe.
- Q Do you have a recollection of actually
- 24 going down to your knees and then down to the
- 25 ground after the cycle was over?

- 1 A I don't think I went to the ground.
- 2 Q So --
- 3 A I went flat --
- 4 I remember being on all fours at one
- 5 point trying to catch my breath, but I don't
- 6 remember ever going like flat, prone on the
- 7 ground.

- 8 Q So the two officers that were holding
- 9 you would have let you down to your knees?
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 Q And then they would have released your
- 12 hands -- your arms, rather?
- 13 A At some point I think they did. Yeah.
- 14 Q At that point in time you would have
- 15 gone down to the ground on all fours?
- 16 A I don't know if that was immediately
- 17 when they let go of me.
- I just remember I couldn't breathe. I
- 19 don't know if you ever had the wind knock out of
- 20 you; it's scary. I remember trying to force
- 21 oxygen into my lungs. I couldn't breathe.
- I remember there were a lot of people
- 23 around me. They kept asking me if I was all
- 24 right, if I was all right. I remember telling
- 25 them -- I couldn't hardly talk. I remember barely 96
- 1 getting out, "just give me a minute."
- 2 At the time I just thought I had the
- 3 wind knocked out of me, that when you get the wind

- 4 knocked out of you it would slowly come back.
- 5 I remember being on all fours and I
- 6 remember trying to breathe, and I remember hurting
- 7 bad, and I was having a real hard time breathing.
- 8 Q And you say the pain was in your whole
- 9 back?
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 Q So it wasn't just limited to the area of
- 12 your spine, it was all through --
- 13 A From what I remember I couldn't -- it
- 14 was throughout my back. Again, I wasn't sitting
- 15 there trying to figure out, okay, where exactly is
- 16 this pain. I just remember it hurting over my
- 17 whole back.
- 18 Q What did you do next, sir?
- 19 A I stayed on my hands and knees for -- I
- 20 hate to put a time on it, because it seemed
- 21 forever. It probably wasn't that long. A couple
- 22 minutes. Again, they kept asking me if I was all
- 23 right.
- From Deputy Perbtani who had gone
- 25 before, I had asked him what was it like. He

- 1 said -- well, I don't remember his exact words,
- 2 but basically it hurt pretty bad for those five
- 3 seconds, but when it was over, it wasn't that bad.
- 4 I remember him saying something about his calf was
- 5 sore. I remember that's what he told me.
- 6 So I just remember thinking, well,
- 7 either -- I remember him having this. So I just
- 8 remember --
- 9 I initially had a thought that I pulled
- 10 a muscle in my back. I don't know why I thought
- 11 that. I just assumed at the time that I pulled a
- 12 muscle in my back.
- 13 After like the two minutes I stood up,
- 14 and I was able to breathe. I mean, I was not dead
- 15 or anything. I was able to get oxygen in. I was
- 16 still sore. I was able to force oxygen in, take
- 17 deep breadths to breath, and I started trying to
- 18 stretch out, because I thought the muscle had just
- 19 pulled itself or it was cramping real bad.
- I was touching my toes, trying to
- 21 stretch that muscle. Of course, the pain was

- 22 getting worse. I was able to breathe, so that
- 23 part -- the scary part of not being able to
- 24 breathe was going away, but the pain in my back
- 25 was getting progressively worse by the minute.

- 1 Q Did you tell the instructor that you
- 2 were having problems?
- 3 A It was very obvious. He asked me over
- 4 and over and over again if I was all right.
- 5 Q After you were exposed to the Taser, was
- 6 anybody else exposed?
- 7 A If there was, I was hurting bad, I
- 8 definitely would not have been paying attention.
- 9 I don't remember. Then we went to lunch pretty
- 10 quick. I don't remember.
- 11 Q Did you ride to lunch with some other
- 12 officers?
- 13 A Oh, yeah. There was no way I drove.
- 14 Q Who did you ride with?
- 15 A I don't know for sure. I think Robert
- 16 Dees.
- 17 The only reason I say that is I know I

- 18 rode with him back from the restaurant. So I am
- 19 assuming that I rode with him. For some reason I
- 20 remember the ride back, but I don't remember the
- 21 ride there. I don't know why.
- Q And how long were you at lunch?
- A We just went to Wendy's. I know it took
- 24 me a while to get in the car.
- Again, I kept thinking it was a pulled 99
 - 1 muscle that was -- spasm muscle, it was going to
- 2 keep getting better. I was not worrying about it
- 3 too much. I remember being at Wendy's. I went
- 4 and sat down. They ordered for me. I was sick to
- 5 my stomach it was hurting so bad. They ordered my
- 6 food. I couldn't eat it. They ate.
- 7 The instructor was actually at Wendy's
- 8 with us. I remember him asking me a bunch of
- 9 times if I was all right. I kept telling him I
- 10 think I'm going to be fine, I think it is just a
- 11 muscle.
- 12 Q This is the same Mitch Gray?
- 13 A Mitch Gray; I think that's his name.

- 14 The instructor, whatever his name is, was there.
- 15 Q I should have asked this before: Was
- 16 there only one instructor there?
- 17 A As far as I know, yes.
- 18 So back to your question, how long were
- 19 we there. My best estimate, 20, 30 minutes at the
- 20 most.
- Q Where did you all go after lunch?
- A They all went back.
- Robert Dees drove me to Wal-Mart. I was
- 24 going to get some Domes, believe it or not. We
- 25 were still operating under the assumption that I 100
 - 1 pulled a muscle in my back. They were going to
- 2 get me the strongest muscle relaxer they had
- 3 over-the-counter.
- 4 We got to Wal-Mart. Robert Dees was
- 5 driving. I think he was the only one in the
- 6 vehicle. We were in his car. I couldn't get out.
- 7 I tried to get out, and the pain was just
- 8 unbearable.
- 9 He went in, got the medicine. I took

- 10 some of that. Then we went back to the police
- 11 department.
- 12 Q What happened next?
- 13 A We got there. Again, I had a lot of
- 14 trouble getting out of the car. He asked me on
- 15 the way there if he wanted me -- if I wanted him
- 16 to take me to the hospital. I told him no at that
- 17 point. You know, again, I thought I pulled a
- 18 muscle.
- We got back there. I couldn't walk up
- 20 the stairs. He went and found somebody. We found
- 21 out there was an elevator. We were on the second
- 22 floor. At least we were above the ground floor.
- 23 I'm not sure if it was the second or third floor.
- We got on the elevator, got back into
- 25 class. I sat down. I remember he went back into 101
- 1 some lecture. I think it was on the projector and
- 2 he was talking --
- 3 Q He being the instructor?
- 4 A He being the instructor. I remember
- 5 trying to pay attention to him and not wanting to

- 6 cause a huge ruckus, but the pain was getting bad.
- 7 I remember he asked me several more
- 8 times are you okay. That was the first time I
- 9 told him I don't know. I said, it's hurting very,
- 10 very bad.
- 11 I remember him telling me specifically
- 12 if I need to stand up or I need to move around,
- 13 feel free to do so. I remember doing that several
- 14 times. I remember standing, sitting, like every
- 15 minute, trying to relieve it in any way I could.
- 16 It wasn't getting better.
- 17 It wasn't very long after we got back
- 18 and he started class, I mean maybe ten minutes --
- 19 I am guessing ten, 15 minutes, and then I started
- 20 getting worried, and I said I'm going to the
- 21 hospital.
- I said it, or he might have asked if I
- 23 was all right. Anyway, at some point I said I
- 24 need to go to the hospital.
- Q Did you drive yourself to the hospital 102
 - 1 or someone took you there?

- 2 A No. Jeff Coleman took me to the
- 3 hospital.
- 4 Q Okay. And do you recall the name of the
- 5 hospital that you went to?
- 6 A No. I actually went to two places up
- 7 there. One was a full-blown large hospital. The
- 8 other one was more like I would call it a clinic.
- 9 I went to the hospital first.
- 10 Q This is in Valdosta?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q And what happened at the hospital?
- 13 A This angers me still to this day:
- 14 Anyway, I struggled to get up the stairs. There
- 15 were these concrete stairs going to the emergency
- 16 room. I'm in immense pain now. I stand up there
- 17 it seemed like forever waiting on somebody. She
- 18 finally comes over and basically tells me that
- 19 because it is a workers' compensation claim that I
- 20 couldn't come there. She told me I had to go all
- 21 the way across town. I was in a lot of pain,
- 22 angry. I don't think -- I didn't say anything to

- 23 her, but Jeff Coleman came around and got all the
- 24 information about where the place was and where he
- 25 needed to take me.

- 1 Then we went back down the stairs, back
- 2 in the car, and went across town to this clinic.
- 3 Q Do you remember the name of that clinic?
- 4 A I have no idea. I know it was in an
- 5 industrial area. It was pretty small. It wasn't
- 6 very big.
- 7 Q What happened once you got to the
- 8 clinic?
- 9 A I went in there. Of course, they asked
- 10 me what was wrong. I told them. They put me back
- 11 in a room. Again, the pain was just -- it was
- 12 unbearable. And I'm begging them for something,
- 13 pain medicine, muscle relaxers, something to help
- 14 my pain go away. Of course, the nurse wouldn't
- 15 give me anything until the doctor saw me.
- The doctor came in, asked me what
- 17 happened. I told him. He asked me if I fell
- 18 down. I explained to him, like I explained to

- 19 you, no, I was held up, and the electricity went
- 20 through. The doctor had no idea pretty much what
- 21 a Taser was. I had to explain to him what the
- 22 device was. I explained basically everything that
- 23 I just explained to you.
- He said, well, I don't see any reason
- 25 doing x-rays because you didn't fall. Of course, 104
- 1 I'm not a doctor. He said it is probably a pulled
- 2 muscle or muscle spasm or muscular. Okay, is what
- 3 I told him.
- 4 At that point I was beginning to think
- 5 that maybe there was more to it, but again, I'm
- 6 not a doctor, so I trusted him. He did give me a
- 7 shot. I don't remember what it was. I don't
- 8 think it was a pain reliever. I think it was a
- 9 muscle relaxer of some sort. I think he wrote me
- 10 a prescription and sent me on my way.
- 11 Q And the name of that facility that you
- 12 were seen at was South Georgia Medical Center?
- 13 A I don't know.
- 14 Q Or Southside Medical Clinic?

- 15 A All I know, there was a big hospital we
- 16 went to and then we went to the clinic across
- 17 town.
- 18 Q South Georgia Medical Center is also
- 19 Convenient Care. That sounds like the walk-in
- 20 clinic.
- A I mean, if I was to look at medical
- 22 records, I could probably tell you. Offhand, I
- 23 don't remember the names.
- Q Did you receive any treatment at all at
- 25 the first hospital you went to?

- 1 A No. Other than to talk to the lady
- 2 behind the window, that was it.
- 3 Q Did the doctor give you a physical
- 4 examination when you went to the clinic?
- 5 A Well, I mean, it depends on what your
- 6 definition of physical exam is.
- 7 If I remember right, he touched my back
- 8 and asked me questions. He was in there maybe
- 9 five minutes.
- 10 Q You apparently told him that you had

- 11 muscle spasms in your back?
- 12 A I told him what happened. I told him my
- 13 back had a lot of pain. Again, he asked those
- 14 questions. I didn't know what it was.
- 15 Q Do you recall him telling you that he
- 16 didn't think it was necessary to take x-rays?
- 17 A He said --
- 18 I remember him saying, since you didn't
- 19 fall, I don't think we need to do x-rays.
- Q Did he prescribe medication for you?
- A He prescribed some medication, the nurse
- 22 gave me a shot, and then he gave me a
- 23 prescription. I think that was for some pain
- 24 medicine, hydrocodone.
- 25 Q The record indicates you got Valium and 106
- 1 Toradol, and you were given a prescription for
- 2 Flexeril and Darvocet.
- 3 A It could have been.
- 4 Q What did you do after you left the
- 5 clinic?
- 6 A There was no way I could drive. This

- 7 was getting to be later in the afternoon now,
- 8 3:00, 4:00 o'clock if I had to guess right. Maybe
- 9 not that late. Maybe 2:00, 3:00 o'clock.
- I made a determination that I was not
- 11 going back to the class. I couldn't. I was
- 12 actually starting to feel a little bit better, I
- 13 am assuming because of the pain medicine they gave
- 14 me and the shot. I was still hurting, but the
- 15 severity was starting to back off some.
- 16 Jeff Coleman, if I remember, I think we
- 17 were in my car, my patrol car. I think he was
- 18 driving it -- it might have been his. I'm not
- 19 sure.
- Anyway, we both had vehicles in
- 21 Valdosta. If he's going to drive me home, that
- 22 raises the issue -- it is not like we are across
- 23 town. I remember him getting on the phone and
- 24 calling Robert Dees or somebody else in the class
- 25 and making some arrangements about the vehicle 107
- 1 issue. We never went back there, not that I
- 2 remember.

- 3 And then he drove me to Lake City.
- 4 Q About how far is the ride from Valdosta
- 5 to Lake City?
- 6 A From the interstate, like in Valdosta,
- 7 45 minutes. But I think, if I remember right, we
- 8 were all the way east through Valdosta. I
- 9 remember it took a little bit longer than that, an
- 10 hour, hour and 15 minutes.
- 11 Q What happened once you got back to Lake
- 12 City?
- 13 A The pain started getting worse again.
- 14 At this point --
- 15 That's when I remember really believing
- 16 that it was more than just a muscle issue, that
- 17 something was wrong. I didn't know what, of
- 18 course. I felt like it was more than just a
- 19 muscle pull.
- So I told him to take me to the
- 21 emergency room there.
- Q At Lake City?
- 23 A Lake City Medical Center.
- Q What happened once you got there?

- 25 A I sat down. Of course, I waited for an 108
- 1 hour out in the emergency room. Then I saw the
- 2 little nurse -- not nurse, the intake, the one
- 3 that wants your insurance information and all
- 4 that. I told her what took place. A nurse came
- 5 out, said, well -- basically told me since I just
- 6 seen a doctor I need to follow that doctor's order
- 7 and come back in a few days if it wasn't better or
- 8 to go see my primary care physician, which I
- 9 didn't have one. They refused to see me.
- 10 Q Do you know if a chart was actually
- 11 started for you at that time?
- 12 A I have no idea. I did not go back --
- 13 That emergency room, as a law
- 14 enforcement officer I have been in there a lot. I
- 15 stayed out in the lobby. Never went back.
- 16 Q The doctor never examined you?
- 17 A Not on that day.
- Q On January 16, 2004, did you explain to
- 19 the doctor what had happened?
- 20 A Yes.

- 21 Q You told him the whole story like you
- 22 told it to me today?
- A I mean, I can't say that I went --
- We have been here for several hours now.
- 25 Of course, some of that wasn't about the injury.
- 1 But I can't say I went into the detail that we
- 2 were going into here. Yes, I told him what took
- 3 place.
- 4 Q All right. Okay. What happened after
- 5 that?
- 6 A My wife came and --
- 7 Jeff Coleman left. My wife came and
- 8 picked me up. I remember we went and got
- 9 prescriptions filled at the pharmacy right near
- 10 there. As far as I remember, we went home.
- 11 Q And what did you do the following day?
- 12 A Well, ate hydrocodone like it was going
- 13 out of style, because the back was hurting so bad.
- 14 The very next Saturday I remember I
- 15 tried to get up --
- Well, I did get up. My wife drove us to

- 17 our daughter's soccer game. I remember standing
- 18 there for like ten minutes. I couldn't do it. So
- 19 I went back and sat in the van for the next 30, 40
- 20 minutes until the game was over. Then we went
- 21 back home.
- Q When is the next time that you received
- 23 any medical treatment?
- A That Sunday morning I woke up, and I was
- 25 just in an immense amount of pain. It was 110
- 1 literally all I could do to get out of bed.
- 2 I woke up laying on my back. I remember
- 3 this like it was yesterday. The pain was so bad I
- 4 could hardly roll over, get up. My wife helped me
- 5 get out of bed. We had just had our twins six
- 6 months before, so between my twins and my daughter
- 7 it was too much for my wife. I couldn't drive
- 8 myself to the hospital. There was no way I could
- 9 get her, load the kids up Sunday morning. It was
- 10 6:00 o'clock. It was early.
- 11 I called Coley Campbell, a road sergeant
- 12 at the time. I think he was a sergeant. I asked

- 13 him to come by and get me and take me to the
- 14 hospital.
- 15 Q What happened during this hospital visit
- 16 on the 18th?
- 17 A They took me back to Lake City Medical
- 18 Center. He dropped me off. He left. He was
- 19 working, so he couldn't stay there with me.
- We went through the same procedures,
- 21 insurance, all that typical stuff. I finally got
- 22 back to see a doctor. Basically he asked me the
- 23 same exact questions. I told him the exact same
- 24 answers. He ordered some x-rays. I remembered
- 25 going and doing the x-rays.

- 1 I remember him coming in, and I remember
- 2 his exact words to this day, "you are not going to
- 3 believe this," and he said you have two
- 4 compression fractures in your vertebrae. He
- 5 showed the x-rays to me.
- 6 Q And so that was the first time that the
- 7 compression fracture injury was diagnosed by any
- 8 medical professional?

- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q Do you recall the name of that doctor?
- 11 A No. I know his face. I can definitely
- 12 know him if I saw him again.
- 13 Q But he is one of the ER doctors there?
- 14 A He is a doctor in the ER, Lake City
- 15 Medical Center on that Sunday morning.
- 16 Q What did he recommend for you?
- 17 A Since it was a workers' compensation
- 18 case, he recommended me --
- Well, he recommended me to an orthopedic
- 20 specialist.
- 21 Since it was a workers' compensation
- 22 case, I had to go to a Dr. Sambey. I guess he was
- 23 on the contract with the workers' compensation
- 24 carrier, or whatever. So he set up an appointment
- 25 for him. And that was Monday morning. It was a 112
 - 1 holiday. I think it was Martin Luther King day, I
- 2 think.
- 3 Q Where is Dr. Sambey located?
- 4 A In Lake City.

- 5 Q How do you spell his name?
- 6 A I think it is S A M B E Y. You know, I
- 7 say Dr. Sambey. It was his office. I'm not
- 8 100 percent sure it was him I saw. It could have
- 9 been somebody that was in there with him.
- 10 Q What did Dr. Sambey do for you?
- 11 A I don't remember that visit a whole lot.
- 12 I remember basically looking at the x-rays again,
- 13 confirming, that, yes, I had the two compression
- 14 fractures. I remember he gave me this brace thing
- 15 and told me to wear it and said that I needed to
- 16 go see a spine surgeon, or I think they used more
- 17 technical terms than that, in Gainesville.
- 18 Q Was that the only visit you ever had
- 19 with Dr. Sambey or his office?
- 20 A Well, it's kind of complicated. Because
- 21 the guy in Gainesville that he sent me to also one
- 22 day a week comes to Lake City and operates out of
- 23 that office. So I went back to that office, but I
- 24 think, if I remember right, every time I went back
- 25 to that office after that it was to see the other

- 1 guy.
- 2 Q Was the orthopedic surgeon in
- 3 Gainesville that he referred you to Dr. Trimbel?
- 4 A That is the orthopedic surgeon. Dr.
- 5 Sambey referred me to Dr. Trimbel.
- 6 Q And what you are telling me, on occasion
- 7 you would see Trimbel at Sambey's office?
- 8 A Well, it's aggravating, too. I didn't
- 9 find out that he came to Lake City once a week
- 10 until like two months into this. So, no, I went
- 11 down to Gainesville like five or six times before
- 12 I found out that he came to Lake City.
- 13 Q Do you recall when you saw Dr. Trimbel
- 14 for the first time?
- 15 A Not exactly. I remember it was like a
- 16 week -- it might have been longer before I could
- 17 get in to see him.
- 18 Q What did he do for you initially?
- 19 A Examined me, and I think he took more
- 20 x-rays. No. Someone ordered an MRI. I don't
- 21 remember if Dr. Sambey ordered that and it was

- 22 already done when I went down there or if I went
- 23 down there and then they had me do the MRI. I
- 24 can't remember what order.
- Q But did you have an MRI done?
- 1 A Yes.
- 2 Q Where did you have that done?
- 3 A Southern MRI, I think is the name of it.
- 4 Q Where is that located?
- 5 A It's in Lake City. They have like a
- 6 semitrailer looking like thing that had some
- 7 attachments on it. It was next to -- it was on
- 8 Hall of Fame Drive in Lake City.
- 9 Q Do you recall what Dr. Trimbel -- what
- 10 sort of treatment he provided for you ultimately?
- 11 A Well, really no treatment, other than
- 12 prescribing medicine, pain medicine. He basically
- 13 said that normally -- I remember him telling me it
- 14 is very rare to see that kind of injury in
- 15 somebody that is as healthy and young as I am. He
- 16 said that was strange. He said it is not unheard
- 17 of, but he said normally when he deals with

- 18 patients with that injury it is older people that
- 19 have fallen or been in car accidents.
- He said normally he recommends
- 21 something-plasty, something where they insert the
- 22 balloon into the spine and fill it up with cement
- 23 to support it. He said normally when it is
- 24 someone that is older, he recommends that, because
- 25 it gives them quality of life. He said somebody 115
- 1 as young as me, while that was an option, he said
- 2 he wouldn't recommend it right away because it
- 3 could cause more complications than it could help.
- 4 So basically it was take it easy. Of
- 5 course, he did the no lifting, nothing over
- 6 10-pounds, I think. He gave me all those
- 7 restrictions.
- 8 He gave me all the medicines,
- 9 anti-inflammatories. There might have been an
- 10 antibiotic in there even, and the pain medicine.
- 11 He told me to rest and see what happened at the
- 12 next visit.
- 13 Q Did he give you any kind of brace?

- 14 A I think the brace came from Dr. Sambey.
- 15 Q Were you wearing a brace, though?
- 16 A I wore it for --
- 17 I'm pretty sure what it was -- Dr.
- 18 Sambey gave it to me on my first visit.
- 19 I think when I went down there, I
- 20 remember Dr. Trimbel, I think he said that because
- 21 the compression fracture was so high that the
- 22 brace wasn't doing any good, that I didn't even
- 23 need to wear that.
- 24 Q The compression fractures were at the
- 25 T5/T6 levels?

- 1 A If that's what the medical records say.
- 2 Q In looking through the records here,
- 3 obviously it appears that you followed up with
- 4 Dr. Trimbel for a number of visits?
- 5 A Um-hum.
- 6 Q Did you generally see him or did you see
- 7 somebody else in his office?
- 8 A No; I always saw him.
- 9 Q When is the last time you saw him?

- 10 A I don't remember. I went back to work
- 11 in March. I know I saw him after that some. I
- 12 couldn't tell you. It hasn't been recent.
- 13 Q The last record I have here, and I don't
- 14 mean this is the last time you saw him, it is just
- 15 the last record I have, the last one I have is
- 16 from December of '04.
- 17 A That sounds about right. Again, I can't
- 18 swear to that. That sounds about right.
- 19 Q And Dr. Trimbel released you to go back
- 20 to work in March of '04?
- 21 A I think it was March. He basically put
- 22 it on me. He told me when I wanted to try it. I
- 23 think it was like late March that I told him that
- 24 I wanted to see if I could do it.
- Q Did you initially go back to work on a 117
- 1 light-duty status?
- 2 A No. We did not have light duty.
- 3 Q You went back on full duty?
- 4 A Full duty.
- 5 Q Did you have any limitations or

- 6 restrictions on your activities at that time?
- 7 A From the doctor or from --
- 8 Q From the doctor.
- 9 A No. I would have not have been allowed
- 10 to come back to work if I had any.
- 11 Q In between March of '04 and when you
- 12 left the Sheriff's Department in January of '05,
- 13 did you miss any time from work due to your back
- 14 injury?
- 15 A Oh, yeah. I mean, there were days I
- 16 couldn't go to work. There were probably a lot of
- 17 days I had to go home early. It is the same
- 18 situation, I had a lot of comp time. They were
- 19 real good with us flexing our time. I probably
- 20 wouldn't have any paperwork.
- 21 Q So there would be no way to document
- 22 or --
- A I know there's people that work with me
- 24 that knew I went home, like my corporal, the one
- 25 underneath me who supervised the shift in my 118
- 1 absence, I know he would know I went home that day

- 2 because my back was hurting, or I had to go home,
- 3 or I didn't come to work because my back was
- 4 hurting.
- 5 Q What is the name of that corporal?
- 6 A Josh McCardle.
- 7 Q And he would have reported to you at the
- 8 time?
- 9 A Yes. Of course, there is a chain of
- 10 command, but I was his direct supervisor.
- 11 Q But as far as the sheriff's office is
- 12 concerned, there wouldn't be any --
- 13 A Sick leave slip, no.
- 14 Q Did Dr. Trimbel ever take you out of
- 15 work again for any extended period of time?
- 16 A No.
- 17 Q And since you were able to use flex
- 18 time, did you actually lose any income after going
- 19 back to work in March of '04 up until the time --
- A If you put a value on comp time or sick
- 21 leave, which I would have used, because not all of
- 22 it was able to be flexed out.
- Q Do you have an estimate as to the amount

- 24 of comp time or sick leave you used?
- A I really don't.

- 1 Q Did Dr. Trimbel release you from his
- 2 care in December of '04?
- 3 A I think so.
- 4 Q Has he ever made any recommendations for
- 5 you with respect to future surgery or other future
- 6 medical treatment?
- 7 A He said the big thing with me, because
- 8 there's not a lot of people my age that have had
- 9 this type of injury, that the future is kind of
- 10 like an unknown. He said, you know, he doesn't
- 11 think I'm in any immediate danger, like of having
- 12 a major problem with it like soon. He said he
- 13 doesn't know what the effects of it will be when
- 14 I'm 50, that kind of thing. He told me since I'm
- 15 so young he didn't recommend that surgery. He
- 16 didn't feel like the benefits would outweigh the
- 17 risks. He left the decision up to me.
- 18 And since my major complaints were not
- 19 directly on the injury site but at the muscle

- 20 spasms that resulted from it, he said that there
- 21 were other physicians who could better help me,
- 22 physical therapists, et cetera, with that type
- 23 treatment.
- Q And is that why he referred you to Dr.
- 25 Puente?

- 1 A Yes. Yes.
- 2 Actually, I don't think he referred me.
- 3 He referred me to the physical
- 4 therapists. Of course, I was going to the
- 5 physical therapists while I was seeing him. I
- 6 kept seeing the physical therapists after that.
- 7 They did some good, not a whole lot, to
- 8 be honest with you. So I quit going. He referred
- 9 me to a massage therapist for a while, and that
- 10 was great while they were actually doing the
- 11 massage and getting all the spasms worked out.
- 12 Fifteen minutes after I would leave, it would be
- 13 right back. I did that for eight weeks, I think.
- 14 Q When did you have that massage therapy?
- 15 A I don't know the name of the place. I

- 16 could tell you where it is. It is right on Duval
- 17 Street in Lake City. I don't know if the place is
- 18 even there anymore.
- 19 Q That was on a referral from Dr. Trimbel?
- 20 A Trimbel. Not directly to them. He just
- 21 recommended that I get some massage therapy. He
- 22 called it into my workers' compensation. Workers'
- 23 compensation found the place.
- 24 Q Are you currently treating with Dr.
- 25 Puente?

- 1 A I only see him every so often. More
- 2 than anything it is just an update on my
- 3 medications. I guess you could say yes.
- 4 Q Where is he located, again?
- 5 A He is in Lake City.
- 6 Q He is a doctor that is like the
- 7 rehabilitation or physical medicine doctor?
- 8 A I think. I don't actually see him all
- 9 that often. It is more his physician's assistant.
- 10 Then he also has a physical therapy place in
- 11 there. I am not actually doing physical therapy

- 12 anymore.
- What happened is, I wasn't doing
- 14 anything for about six, eight months, because I
- 15 basically got told time is the only thing that's
- 16 going to heal with this, so I just dealt with it.
- But it got so bad again. I remember at
- 18 one point I just said I have to do something. So
- 19 I called workers' compensation back, because I
- 20 wasn't under the care of any specific doctor at
- 21 that point. I talked to them and said, listen,
- 22 I'm having problems. So they set me up with Dr.
- 23 Puente or his office.
- Q When is the last time you had any kind
- 25 of physical therapy or massage therapy? 122
- 1 A I'm guessing now. The last physical
- 2 therapy, six months ago.
- 3 Q Is it your understanding that the two
- 4 compression fractures at T4/T5 have stabilized?
- 5 A Well, I don't know.
- 6 Q The doctor didn't tell you that?
- 7 A He may have. I mean, I don't remember

- 8 that specific term.
- 9 Q At least as of today's date no doctor
- 10 has recommended any future surgery for you?
- 11 A Recommended, no.
- 12 Q Have you seen any other health care
- 13 provider for treatment to your back since
- 14 January 16, 2004 up until the present?
- 15 A Okay. We talked about the hospital, the
- 16 two hospitals that I went to -- the three
- 17 hospitals that I went to on the day of the injury.
- 18 I went to the hospital on Sunday and saw the
- 19 doctor. I went to Dr. Sambey, to Dr. Trimbel, the
- 20 MRI, Dr. Puente's office. I don't know what the
- 21 credentials of the physical therapists are, if
- they are doctors. I don't think they are doctors.
- 23 I saw his physician assistant in the office. I
- 24 don't think I have seen anybody else.
- Q And has all of your medical care been 123
- 1 paid for by the workers' compensation carrier?
- 2 A Yes.
- 3 Q And that's --

- 4 A I mean, there has been an occasional
- 5 prescription to get filled, and they gave me a
- 6 hard time, and I just pay the \$10 for my co-pay,
- 7 things like that. But generally --
- 8 Q And your workers' compensation is
- 9 a company called --
- 10 A PCGS, Preferred Governmental Claim
- 11 Solutions. They are out of Lake Mary, I think.
- 12 Q Do you presently have any appointments
- 13 to see any physician for your back?
- 14 A I have an update --
- When I leave Dr. Puente's office, after
- 16 I see his physician assistant, they automatically
- 17 schedule me for a visit every three months.
- Yes, I do. I don't remember when it is.
- 19 That's when I go in there, are you having any more
- 20 problems, anything changed, how is your
- 21 medications, and that's pretty much it.
- Q Now, you mentioned earlier that the
- 23 problems that you were having are not directly in
- 24 your spine or related to your spine, but it is

- 25 muscle spasm on the side of your spine, is that
- 1 what you are saying?
- 2 A That's the area --
- 3 The doctors told me it is directly
- 4 related to the injury. I'm telling you what I
- 5 feel, it's not centralized pain right above the
- 6 spine. It is off to one side.
- 7 Q Which side are you having pain on?
- 8 A The right. My right.
- 9 Q Is that where you are having the muscle
- 10 spasm, on the right side?
- 11 A Yes. Well, I will have one occasionally
- 12 on the left. It is almost the exact same spot
- 13 symmetrical-wise, but that one doesn't happen all
- 14 that often. The one on the right is the severe
- 15 one.
- 16 Q Are you still having symptoms of muscle
- 17 spasm on the right side of your back?
- 18 A I'm spasming right now.
- 19 Q How often do you have that?
- A Every day.

- Q Do you have it every day?
- 22 A No.
- 23 Q How often during the course of the day
- 24 do you have it?
- 25 A It totally depends on what I'm doing.

- 1 It depends on a lot of factors. Some days I wake
- 2 up with it, go to sleep with it, and everything in
- 3 between. Other days it's relatively not bad.
- 4 When I compare it to the days where I have it all
- 5 day --
- 6 It really just depends on different
- 7 factors.
- 8 Q Is there anything that you do that seems
- 9 to either cause the symptoms to commence or cause
- 10 them to get worse?
- 11 A There are some things that --
- 12 I've tried to figure that out over the
- 13 two years so that I don't do things that make it
- 14 bad. I don't know that conclusively.
- But some things that I kind of
- 16 associated with it is standing up for long periods

- 17 of time, more than like an hour, lifting anything
- 18 heavy, any kind of stress. If I have a really
- 19 busy day at work, just generally like a stressful
- 20 day, that tends to aggravate it. Those are just
- 21 some things I noticed.
- There are other times when it flares up
- 23 very badly and I -- I can't put anything with it.
- 24 I haven't been on my feet, I haven't had a
- 25 stressful day at work, I have not lifted anything, 126
- 1 it is like there it is. Like today, I got in the
- 2 car and drove here and I have been sitting in a
- 3 chair sitting down all day and it is hurting
- 4 fairly bad right now.
- 5 Q Well, most people would say talking to a
- 6 lawyer would cause pain.
- 7 A Yeah; but I have done that enough.
- 8 Q How about medications, any medications
- 9 you take help?
- 10 A They relieve it. Yeah.
- 11 Q When you say you lifted something heavy
- 12 and it causes you pain, how much weight are you

- 13 talking about?
- 14 A Well, I try not to lift anything heavy.
- 15 Lifting my kids at times will aggravate it.
- 16 It is not like if you twist your knee,
- 17 you know the exact moment you did it, you felt it,
- 18 I twisted my knee. With my back it might not --
- 19 it is not like the spasm comes on the split
- 20 second; it might be a half hour after I do
- 21 something.
- That's why I say it is hard sometimes to
- 23 associate the spasm with did something trigger it.
- 24 I guess sometimes. I will think my back is
- 25 hurting and think back over the last few hours and 127
- 1 try to think did I do anything. A lot of times I
- 2 can't think of anything. Other times I will think
- 3 I lifted the kid up a few times. I don't know if
- 4 that's what caused it or what. I just know that
- 5 now my back hurts.
- 6 Sometimes I know exactly what it is,
- 7 standing up. If I stand up for more than an hour,
- 8 like when I teach, it becomes very painful.

- 9 Q Prior to January 16, 2004, had you ever
- 10 had any injury of any nature whatsoever to your
- 11 back?
- 12 A To my back, no.
- 13 Q Have you ever had any pain or discomfort
- 14 in your back prior to January 16, 2004?
- 15 A No.
- 16 Q Have you ever had any instance in which
- 17 you may have aggravated or exacerbated the injury
- 18 in your back since January 16, 2004?
- 19 A Not that I know of.
- 20 Q Prior to January 16, 2004, had you ever
- 21 been diagnosed with any degenerative condition in
- 22 your spine?
- 23 A No.
- Q At any point in time have you ever been
- 25 diagnosed with osteoporosis or deterioration of 128
- 1 the bone or ligaments in your body?
- 2 A They did a bone density test, and she
- 3 did tell me that they did it two places, they did
- 4 it -- I guess where they always do it, the hip and

- 5 on my spine. I remember Dr. Puente's physical --
- 6 what do they call it, physician assistant told me
- 7 that my hip was fine. She said that my spine was
- 8 a little low. She said there was nothing to be
- 9 worried about. She characterized it still in the
- 10 normal range. She said that it may have also been
- 11 because they did a scan where the injury was. So
- 12 she told me I didn't have to do anything with it,
- 13 did not need to be worried about it.
- 14 Q When was that bone density test done?
- 15 A I'm guessing now. Seven, eight months
- 16 ago. I'm thinking it was summer of last year.
- 17 No. It might have been more toward the fall. It
- 18 has been a while.
- 19 Q Have either of your parents ever had any
- 20 problems with arthritis or degenerative conditions
- 21 of the spine or back?
- 22 A No.
- 23 Q Any of your parents ever had problems
- 24 with osteoporosis?
- 25 A No.

- 1 Q Do you have siblings?
- 2 A Yes. Two sisters.
- 3 Q Have either of them ever had those types
- 4 of problems?
- 5 A No.
- 6 Q What are your sister's names?
- 7 A Lori; her last name is Edwards. Dawn;
- 8 and her last name is Vargo, V A R G O.
- 9 O Where does Lori live?
- 10 A Lori lives in -- I call it Savannah. It
- 11 is not actually in the city proper of Savannah.
- 12 It is in -- it is out like 15 miles straight west
- 13 of Savannah along the interstate that goes out of
- 14 there. There is a small town Pembroke. She
- 15 doesn't life in Pembroke, it is in that area
- 16 there.
- 17 Q How about Dawn?
- 18 A She lives in Lake City, Columbia County.
- 19 Q Has Dr. Trimbel ever discussed with you
- 20 the mechanism of how you sustained the injury to
- 21 your spine or how he believes that occurred?
- A Yes. He said due to his opinion it was

- 23 the extreme muscle contraction due to the shock
- 24 from the Taser that caused the collapse in the
- 25 vertebrae.

- 1 Q Did he tell you how he came to that
- 2 conclusion?
- 3 A Well, if he did, I don't remember.
- 4 Q Would it be fair to say that you knew
- 5 prior to being exposed to the Taser that the Taser
- 6 was going to cause muscle contractions in your
- 7 body, correct?
- 8 A Did I know that? I wouldn't say I knew
- 9 that. I mean, I kind of figured that, I mean,
- 10 using some common sense.
- 11 Q Weren't you also told that
- 12 specifically --
- 13 A By --
- 14 Q -- by the instructor that day?
- 15 A I don't recall specifically. He could
- 16 have. I don't remember, though. I think I
- 17 remember in general him saying the effects of the
- 18 Taser and the pulse and all that cause muscle

- 19 contractions, if that's what you are getting at.
- 20 I remember him saying that.
- 21 Q That was before you had been exposed to
- 22 the Taser?
- A Yeah.
- Q Prior to January 16, 2004, had you ever
- 25 sustained any sort of orthopedic injury?
- 1 A I had a K-9 dog in training bite my
- 2 finger and break it.
- When you say orthopedic, you mean bone,
- 4 right? Are you talking about specifically on my
- 5 spine?
- 6 Q No, whole body. Bones or joints.
- 7 A I had a finger broken. I think I
- 8 sprained a knee one time wrestling with a kid up
- 9 on a bridge.
- 10 I can't think of anything else. It has
- 11 just been bumps or scrapes or cuts. I don't think
- 12 I had any joint or bone injuries.
- 13 Q Other than this incident here, have you
- 14 had any other workers' compensation claims?

- 15 A Oh, yeah. I remember.
- You have to remember I was a law
- 17 enforcement officer for 12 years. Our policy any
- 18 time you receive an injury, you go get it looked
- 19 at.
- So, yeah, I've been --
- 21 Most of them are very minor things.
- 22 Yes, I had workers' compensation claims.
- Q Where would you normally go to get
- 24 checked out if you had a workers' compensation
- 25 claim?

- 1 A A hospital. One of the local hospitals
- 2 if it was after hours and it was an emergency.
- 3 If it was something it could wait,
- 4 whoever the contracted provider was.
- 5 Q What other hospital is there in Lake
- 6 City other than Lake City Medical Center?
- 7 A Lake Shore Hospital.
- 8 Q 2002 through 2004, who was the
- 9 contracted medical provider back then?
- 10 A It changed all the time. I think most

- 11 of the time we would go to Lake Shore Hospital.
- 12 Q Had you ever been involved in any
- 13 automobile accidents?
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 Q How many?
- 16 A You want minor, right?
- 17 Q Let's say any automobile accidents that
- 18 required medical attention.
- 19 A Well, where I was seen by? None of mine
- 20 actually required any treatment, but where I was
- 21 seen by a doctor, precautionary thing?
- Q Yes.
- A Just one.
- Q Okay. Where was that?
- A First of all I have never been on one in 133
- 1 a privately owned vehicle, knock on wood.
- I have been in three, I think, as a law
- 3 enforcement officer; one, two, three. Yes.
- 4 Q What was the nature of the injury that
- 5 you went to get checked out for?
- 6 A I didn't have an injury. It was just

- 7 policy. It was a fairly severe accident, but I
- 8 walked away from it. I was seat belted. I had no
- 9 complaints of anything. They just make you get
- 10 seen.
- 11 Q When did that accident occur?
- 12 A I think that was in '02 sometime.
- 13 Q And where did you get checked out?
- 14 A Lake Shore Hospital.
- 15 Q Have you ever been a plaintiff in
- 16 another lawsuit?
- 17 A No.
- 18 Q Did you give any statement to anyone
- 19 associated with the Columbia County Sheriff's
- 20 Office regarding your injury?
- 21 A Yeah. You mean like an official or
- 22 somebody walking up and saying what happened?
- 23 Q No. Official statement.
- A It depends what you mean by official. I
- 25 mean, my supervisor asked me what happened. I 134
- 1 don't know that he wrote anything down, or part of
- 2 an investigation, I don't think. It was out of

- 3 concern more than anything.
- 4 I mean, the sheriff asked me what
- 5 happened for that matter. I think it was more out
- 6 of concern than an investigation or anything. I'm
- 7 sure any time someone is injured, there is usually
- 8 an incident report written, and of course there
- 9 are workers' compensation forms filled out.
- 10 Q Let me show you this notice of injury
- 11 form here. Take a quick look at that.
- 12 A Um-hum.
- 13 Q That's the type of form that normally
- 14 would be filled out in connection with the
- 15 workers' compensation injury?
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q And then there is a lieutenant that
- 18 signed it there. Who is the lieutenant?
- 19 A Nydam. Lieutenant Ryan Nydam.
- 20 Q And then there's an incident report here
- 21 that appears to be prepared by Lieutenant Nydam on
- 22 January 17, 2004?
- 23 A Yes.

- Q Do you know of any other formal
- 25 paperwork that was prepared by the sheriff's 135
- 1 office relating to this incident?
- 2 A I'm sure there's some workers'
- 3 compensation documents. I'm sure there's a lot.
- 4 Q Was there ever a formal IA that you are
- 5 aware of?
- 6 A No.
- 7 Q Did you leave the Columbia County
- 8 Sheriff's Office on good terms?
- 9 A Oh, yeah.
- 10 Q Back in January of '04, did you have a
- 11 family doctor?
- 12 A No.
- Q Was there any physician that you went to
- 14 see just for check-ups?
- 15 A I'm still trying to get a decent family
- 16 doctor. Half of them don't take new patients. I
- 17 am a fairly healthy person. I never had any major
- 18 illnesses.
- 19 For a flu-type thing, hurt knee, I went

- 20 to the Urgent Care clinic.
- 21 Q You don't have an internist or family
- 22 physician that you go to?
- 23 A No. No. No.
- 24 Q Let me run through some of the names of
- 25 the folks that you mentioned here in your 136
- 1 interrogatory answers. John Gootee, he is a
- 2 friend of yours that has taken you to the doctors?
- 3 A Yes.
- 4 Q Is there anything else that he knows
- 5 about this?
- 6 A He can tell you different times that he
- 7 has seen my back hurting me, or something along
- 8 those lines.
- 9 Q And you got Deputy Alfred Coley Campbell
- 10 listed here, Tallahassee Capitol Police.
- 11 A He is not there anymore. Now I think he
- 12 is doing --
- I heard --
- I heard he is not there anymore, and he
- 15 is in the pallet business in Citrus County

- 16 somewhere.
- 17 Q The pallet business?
- 18 A Yeah. If you needed to get a hold of
- 19 him or find out where he is, you can find out. I
- 20 know some people that are friends of his.
- 21 Q There are some allegations in the
- 22 complaint regarding the Taser product and alleged
- 23 misrepresentation regarding the product, the
- 24 allegations in the complaint about that. They are
- 25 also in the interrogatory answers, some 137
- 1 allegations about the product itself and
- 2 misinforming or overstating certain things on
- 3 behalf of Taser International. Okay?
- 4 A Um-hum.
- 5 Q First of all, are you aware that those
- 6 statements are contained in the complaint and also
- 7 in the interrogatory answers?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 Q What I want to do is cover those with
- 10 you to see what personal information you have.
- 11 A Okay.

- 12 Q I understand that there are going to be
- 13 other witnesses that your attorneys may plan on
- 14 calling relating to these matters. I'm interested
- 15 in more personal information that you have.
- 16 A Sure.
- 17 Q There is a list of items that are
- 18 characterized as information defects. It says
- 19 "overstating the safety of Taser weapons based on
- 20 actual medical studies."
- 21 Do you have any personal information
- 22 regarding that allegation?
- A I just believe that when we went to the
- 24 class that day, they dropped that pamphlet in
- 25 front of us. He started talking, and he 138
 - 1 emphasized that after the five seconds that there
- 2 would be no long-lasting effects, and that he just
- 3 kept selling that point. It made me believe that
- 4 it was very safe.
- 5 Q Do you know, though, for example, what
- 6 actual medical studies were performed?
- 7 A Direct knowledge, no. I heard some

- 8 things watching news reports or that sort of
- 9 thing, but no direct knowledge.
- 10 Q And likewise, you wouldn't know the
- 11 results of those actual medical studies that were
- 12 performed?
- 13 A No.
- 14 Q The second item here is "providing
- 15 misleading and/or misrepresenting information
- 16 regarding the nature and extent of the medical
- 17 studies performed to support the conclusion that
- 18 Taser weapons do not cause death or permanent
- 19 injury."
- 20 Do you have any information about that?
- 21 A Again, I don't know that Mitchell Gray
- 22 misrepresented. He may have been -- people might
- 23 have misrepresented to him.
- 24 But I believe I was misrepresented to
- 25 the fact that -- of the safety of it and the no 139
- 1 long-lasting effects.
- 2 Q This statement says that there was
- 3 misrepresentation or misleading information

- 4 provided regarding the nature and extent of
- 5 medical studies performed.
- 6 A Okay. I was told that there had been
- 7 medical studies performed. There were no details
- 8 of that, but it had been deemed safe.
- 9 Q Do you have any information regarding
- 10 the results from those medical studies?
- 11 A No.
- 12 Q Do you know what specific
- 13 misrepresentation or misleading information was
- 14 provided regarding those studies?
- 15 A My opinion or just --
- Just my opinion, I was told as a result
- 17 of the medical studies, that I was told that it is
- 18 a very safe product and that there would be no --
- 19 there would be no injury associated with it, that
- 20 after the five seconds are up that you don't feel
- 21 it anymore.
- Q Were you told that there was no
- 23 possibility for any injury?
- A I remember being told there would be no
- 25 long-lasting effects. I just remember that. I

- 1 don't remember if he used the words possibility.
- 2 Q Were you told there was no chance that
- 3 you could be injured?
- 4 A He didn't tell me there was a chance I
- 5 could be injured. I don't think we even -- had
- 6 that conversation or that topic was brought up.
- 7 Q When the issue of medical studies was
- 8 being discussed, did you ask any questions?
- 9 A No.
- 10 Q The next allegation here is that "Taser
- 11 misinformed law enforcement agencies concerning
- 12 conclusions reached by other independent bodies
- 13 which have considered the potential injuries which
- 14 could be inflicted by weapons utilizing electric
- 15 current."
- Do you know what misrepresentations or
- 17 misinformation have been provided by Taser in that
- 18 regard?
- 19 A I just have my opinions, the one I
- 20 already stated a couple times about that.
- Q Well, what I'm asking for is not

- 22 necessarily your opinion, but facts.
- A Do I have any hard facts or paperwork of
- 24 medical studies or things, no, I don't,
- 25 personally.

- 1 Q What I'm asking for, there is an
- 2 allegation that Taser misinformed law enforcement
- 3 agencies about studies that other independent
- 4 bodies had done. Okay. That's the allegation.
- 5 A I don't have any information about
- 6 independent body or studies that were done.
- 7 Q "Overstating the number of volunteers
- 8 who actually received a hit from the Taser weapon
- 9 without injury," do you have any facts that would
- 10 support that?
- 11 A I know they did tell us how many
- 12 volunteers. I don't remember the exact number. I
- 13 remember during the training him saying so many
- 14 law enforcement have been exposed to this and
- 15 there haven't been any injuries. I don't know if
- 16 that number was false. I just know that was the
- 17 number told to us.

- Q Do you have any indication that that
- 19 number was overstated?
- A No; I personally don't.
- 21 Q The next allegation, "misrepresenting
- 22 actual information known by Taser and DGG Taser,
- 23 Inc. regarding hits from Taser weapons received by
- 24 volunteers in a training setting which actually
- 25 caused significant and/or permanent injury."

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- 1 Do you know of any specific
- 2 misrepresentations in that regard?
- 3 A No. I just know that I was told that
- 4 there had been a significant number exposed in
- 5 training and there had been no significant
- 6 injuries.
- 7 Q Exhibit F of your answers, "falsely
- 8 reporting information regarding the alleged role
- 9 of Taser weapons and causing or contributing to
- 10 the injuries or deaths of individuals receiving
- 11 hits from Taser weapons."
- 12 A False report, no, I don't have personal
- 13 knowledge of that.

- 14 Q Sub G is, "knowingly and intentionally
- 15 failing to inform law enforcement agencies and
- 16 their personnel of the inherent and/or known risks
- 17 associated with utilizing weapons utilizing
- 18 electrical current." Do you have any personal
- 19 knowledge of that?
- A I believe that to be true.
- 21 Do I have any evidence, personal
- 22 evidence of that, I mean, I know I was injured
- 23 with it. I don't know if Taser is telling other
- 24 law enforcement agencies about my injury or
- 25 anything along that line. I have not been present 143
- 1 when someone from Taser has told somebody
- 2 something that I know is false. So that would be
- 3 the only way I could say for sure that I know
- 4 that's true.
- 5 MR. ROPER: Mark this as Defendant's
- 6 Exhibit 4.
- 7 (Exhibit No. 4 marked for
- 8 identification.)
- 9 BY MR. ROPER

- 10 Q Take a look at Exhibit 4 and let me know
- 11 once you had a chance to read through it.
- 12 A Okay.
- 13 Q First of all, you see on Exhibit 4 that
- 14 there is -- up top there appears to be a box,
- 15 "volunteer exposure" at the top, and some
- 16 information below that. Do you see that?
- 17 A Um-hum.
- 18 Q Do you recall on January 16, 2004 seeing
- 19 a Power Point picture with that information on it?
- A No, I don't.
- 21 Q Do you recall specifically one way or
- 22 the other whether prior to your exposure a Power
- 23 Point picture with that information was shown to
- 24 the class?
- A I was in the class for all of the class 144
- 1 presentations up until I went to the hospital, so
- 2 I guess no.
- 3 Q So your testimony is that this slide
- 4 regarding volunteer exposure was not shown to your
- 5 class prior to your exposure?

- 6 A No. My testimony is I don't remember
- 7 every single slide that was shown. We were handed
- 8 this packet when we walked in there, and it was
- 9 40-pages long. He started talking. I didn't read
- 10 the whole packet. I was listening to the
- 11 instructor. I'm saying I don't remember seeing
- 12 this.
- 13 Q So it could have been shown, but you
- 14 just don't remember one way or the other?
- 15 A I don't remember seeing it.
- 16 Q Do you see on the bottom of the slide,
- 17 it says volunteering is highly recommended but is
- 18 not manditory?
- 19 A I see that on this sheet, yes.
- Q Do you recall seeing that on the day of
- 21 your injury?
- 22 A I can't tell you I remember seeing --
- I couldn't say any one of the slide.
- 24 It's been two years. I don't remember seeing it
- 25 on the day of my injury.

1 Q Once again, are you saying it wasn't

- 2 shown or you just don't remember?
- 3 A I'm saying I don't remember.
- 4 Q Do you recall being told that
- 5 volunteering is recommended but not manditory?
- 6 A Again, I'm not saying it wasn't. I'm
- 7 saying I don't remember.
- 8 I was under the impression that I didn't
- 9 have an option. I remember thinking that this is
- 10 something I had to do, but I don't remember the
- 11 specific language.
- 12 Q And you cannot testify here today under
- 13 oath that on January 16, 2004 the instructor told
- 14 you that it was manditory for you to be exposed to
- 15 the Taser device?
- 16 A I don't remember specific words. So, I
- 17 guess under oath I could not say that -- the
- 18 instructor said I had no choice but to do it.
- 19 Q Do you see also there that there is a
- 20 caution statement associated with exposure to the
- 21 Taser?
- A Where are you referring to?

- 23 Q The heading that says caution.
- A Yes. Yes. In the box. Okay.
- Q And it states "subjecting yourself to 146
- 1 the Taser involves physical exertion similar to an
- 2 athletic injury such as playing a game of
- 3 basketball."
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q Do you recall being told that on
- 6 January 16, 2004?
- 7 A I don't remember. I could have been.
- 8 Q Do you also recall being told the risk
- 9 of injury from physical exertion or falling while
- 10 very low is not zero?
- 11 A Could have been.
- 12 Q Would it be fair to say that if you had
- 13 seen this slide, which is Exhibit 4, on
- 14 January 16, 2004, prior to you being exposed to
- 15 the Taser, that you would have been on notice that
- 16 exposure to the Taser did involve a risk of
- 17 injury?
- 18 A Well, I would have said -- I would have

- 19 read it and said it was similar to activities such
- 20 as playing a game of basketball. I played
- 21 basketball a lot. I would not assume from reading
- 22 that I would be subject to injury. I mean,
- 23 anything is possible. A spaceship could fall out
- 24 of the sky -- there is not one up now. A rocket
- 25 could fall out of the sky and come in here and hit 147
- 1 us in the head, that's possible.
- 2 Saying a game of basketball, I wouldn't
- 3 assume a risk of injury, if I'm going to go out
- 4 and play a game of basketball.
- 5 Yes, if I fall, obviously if you fall,
- 6 it's possible you could get hurt.
- 7 Q Well, it does say "the risk of injury
- 8 from physical exertion or falling while low is not
- 9 zero," correct?
- 10 A That's what it says, yes.
- 11 Q Would it be fair to say if you had seen
- 12 this slide then you would have known that there
- 13 was a risk of injury from being exposed to the
- 14 Taser?

- 15 A No, I wouldn't assume that from seeing
- 16 the slide. He told us we would not be falling,
- 17 that we would be held up. I knew that wouldn't be
- 18 the case. I wasn't worried about falling down.
- 19 And he is associating it or comparing it
- 20 to the game of basketball. I played a lot of
- 21 basketball, never been hurt, never seen any of my
- 22 friends hurt playing basketball.
- 23 Q Are you aware of anyone ever being hurt
- 24 playing basketball?
- 25 A Personally, I've seen players on TV get 148
- 1 carried off of the basketball court.
- 2 Q Would it be fair to say that prior to
- 3 January '04 you were aware that there was a
- 4 potential risk associated -- physical risk
- 5 associated with any sporting activity, including
- 6 basketball, correct?
- 7 A Well, there is a risk of me walking out
- 8 to my car. There is a risk getting up in the
- 9 morning, going to work, slipping in the bathtub.
- 10 There is a risk being alive, pretty much. So,

- 11 yes, there is a risk in everything.
- 12 Q At what point does that risk become
- 13 unreasonable?
- 14 A Well, that's a hard question to answer.
- 15 Q Is playing basketball an acceptable
- 16 risk?
- 17 A I don't consider basketball a risk.
- When you should have known or when you
- 19 knew it was likely that you would be injured or
- 20 good likelihood you would be injured if you do
- 21 this, that's to me when it becomes unacceptable.
- 22 Q If the risks from Taser exposure are
- 23 approximately one eighth of what they would be
- 24 from reported injuries from basketball, would the
- 25 risk from being exposed to a Taser be an 149
- 1 acceptable risk to you?
- 2 A That depends if you are asking me before
- 3 or after I get hurt.
- 4 Q Before you get hurt.
- 5 A If you play the odds game, it's unlikely
- 6 that it will happen to me. I am not happy with

- 7 the word acceptable. I really don't know how --
- 8 I am having trouble truthfully answering
- 9 your question.
- 10 Q Let's back up a second.
- 11 You know generally, just in your scheme
- 12 of knowledge, that it's possible that someone can
- 13 get injured playing basketball, correct?
- 14 A There's a small possibility.
- 15 Q Sure. And knowing that possibility and
- 16 that risk, you have in the past played basketball
- 17 voluntarily, correct?
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 Q Because from your perspective it is an
- 20 acceptable risk?
- A Well, it is an acceptable risk, because
- 22 the likelihood of -- I don't have statistics, but
- 23 injuries that I've ever seen playing basketball on
- 24 TV are pulled muscles, minor sprains, something
- 25 that you are fine with -- you get over in a few 150
 - 1 weeks.
- 2 Q You certainly know that there are

- 3 athletes who have been injured playing basketball
- 4 that have severe injuries, right?
- 5 A Very, very rare. I don't know of any.
- 6 I am assuming that there are probably a few out
- 7 there.
- 8 Q And presumably the risk from exposure
- 9 from a Taser is less than those reported from
- 10 basketball injuries, you would agree with me, do
- 11 you not, that the risks associated with exposure
- 12 to Taser would be an acceptable risk?
- MR. MOYE: Object to the form. Lack of
- 14 foundation.
- Two, it's vague in terms of what
- injuries we are speaking of.
- 17 BY MR. ROPER
- 18 Q Let me change gears for a second. Let
- 19 me ask a slightly different question. I don't
- 20 want to argue with you over this point.
- 21 Do you know of anyone prior to
- 22 January 16, 2004 who was exposed to a Taser, was
- 23 in the same general physical condition as you that
- 24 sustained a similar injury to you?

25 A No. No.

- 1 Now, I know that now. On that day or
- 2 now?
- 3 Q Let's start with on that day.
- 4 A No.
- 5 Q Now, do you know anyone --
- 6 A Not personally. But I have heard --
- 7 Q Let me finish.
- 8 Do you know of any person prior to
- 9 January 16, 2004 who was exposed to a Taser, was
- 10 in the same physical condition as you and
- 11 sustained a similar injury to you?
- 12 A With all that criteria?
- 13 Q Yes.
- 14 A Prior to 2004, no.
- 15 Q What information?
- MR. MOYE: Someone injured prior to '04.
- 17 BY MR. ROPER
- 18 Q Injured prior to '04.
- 19 A From the Taser?
- Q Yes.

- A I cannot say I wasn't watching a news
- 22 clip. I don't remember anything in my situation,
- 23 similar physical stature to me getting injured in
- 24 the manner I did before my injury. No, not that I
- 25 know of. That's before me.

- 1 Q Right.
- 2 A I know of some of those injuries now,
- 3 but I did not know of them on that day, 2004, if
- 4 that's what you are asking.
- 5 Q No. It is a slightly different
- 6 question. I will try to clarify it because the
- 7 question wasn't clear and I can understand your
- 8 confusion.
- 9 Do you know of anybody that was injured
- 10 before you were injured because of exposure to a
- 11 Taser involving the same type of injury that you
- 12 had?
- 13 A I know from either the news or from
- 14 different -- the internet some people had similar
- 15 injuries to me. I'm not certain on the dates that
- 16 they received their injuries.

- 17 Q The first thing is you are not sure if
- 18 anybody was injured before you that had a similar
- 19 injury, correct?
- 20 A Correct. I know this now.
- 21 Q I don't care about when you knew it.
- 22 A Just period --
- 23 Q You know it as of today?
- A As of today.
- 25 Q As of your knowledge today? 153
- 1 A Got you.
- 2 Q You believe that there are other people
- 3 out there that have similar injuries to you?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q You don't know if they occurred before
- 6 or after your injury?
- 7 A Correct.
- 8 Q And you don't know if they were in
- 9 similar physical condition to you or not?
- 10 A Correct.
- 11 Q What information do you have about other
- 12 people that sustained similar injuries?

- 13 A I just know there was specifics. I
- 14 heard there were several officers that received
- 15 similar injuries. I heard of an officer in
- 16 Arizona.
- 17 Q Mr. Powers?
- 18 A I don't know the name. I think that
- 19 sounds right, but I'm not sure.
- Q The one with the extensive osteoporosis?
- A I think so.
- 22 Q The one that the jury found that the
- 23 Taser was not at fault for?
- A I saw that in a news article relating to
- 25 that.

- 1 Q Who else?
- 2 A The one that --
- Whatever his name is.
- 4 Q The co-plaintiff in this case?
- 5 A The co-plaintiff in this case.
- 6 Q Anyone else?
- 7 A I heard there's other officers, but I
- 8 have no details or names or anything about that.

- 9 MR. ROPER: Could you mark this as
- Defendant's Exhibit Number 5 for me.
- 11 (Exhibit No. 5 marked for
- 12 identification.)
- 13 Q Mr. Jewett, I have given to you a copy
- 14 of a document that I marked as Exhibit 5 to your
- 15 deposition. It is a three-page document.
- Let me ask you to look at the third
- 17 page. Look back at the first page of the document
- 18 for me.
- 19 A The very first page.
- 20 Q Certification, lesson plan, version
- 21 10.1?
- A Mine says version X 1 or X.
- 23 Q I may have given you the wrong one.
- 24 That's okay. I think it is the same.
- 25 It says version ten?

- 1 A Mine says version X.
- 2 Q Roman numeral X?
- 3 A I got you. Version ten.
- 4 Q If you can turn to page three of the

- 5 document; about halfway down.
- 6 A Athletic exertion.
- 7 Q Do you see there is a statement
- 8 regarding athletic exertion? Do you recall being
- 9 told that on January 16, 2004?
- 10 A No, I don't recall getting this or being
- 11 told.
- 12 Q Once again the same question as before.
- 13 Are you saying that you were not told
- 14 that specifically or you just don't recall one way
- 15 or the other?
- 16 A I don't recall hearing that.
- 17 Q Have you ever spoken directly with any
- 18 employee of Taser at any time?
- 19 A Other than --
- Well, I don't think the instructor was a
- 21 direct employee. I think he was a contractor with
- 22 DGG. So my answer would be no.
- Q During the time that you were a
- 24 defensive tactics instructor, have you ever had a
- 25 student in your class injured in any way?

- 1 A I don't think so. I mean, I'm not
- 2 saying it is impossible.
- 3 Again, I'm not the lead instructor. It
- 4 would not have been my responsibility to fill out
- 5 paperwork for the injury.
- 6 Aside from them coming in the next day
- 7 saying they are sore, but that's to be expected,
- 8 and we don't consider that an injury, so my answer
- 9 would be no, I don't remember any.
- 10 Q Were you ever present in any training
- 11 where another person was injured during any sort
- 12 of training?
- 13 A You have to remember I've been a law
- 14 enforcement officer for 13 years. I have been to
- 15 a lot of training. I can't think of any specific
- 16 incidents, but I wouldn't be surprised if there
- 17 wasn't.
- 18 Q Was there anybody else other than
- 19 yourself that was injured in any way during the
- 20 training that took place on January 16, 2004?
- A I was present up until I left the

- 22 hospital, was the only time I was present, so not
- 23 that I know of.
- 24 Q Have you heard through the grapevine
- 25 that anybody else was injured later on?

- 1 A Not that I can remember.
- 2 Q Since January 16, 2004, have you served
- 3 as an instructor for the Taser product?
- 4 A No.
- 5 Q You haven't instructed anybody at the
- 6 sheriff's office?
- 7 A No.
- 8 Q You were involved I believe tangentally
- 9 in the investigation regarding the use of a Taser
- 10 and a suspect by the name of Woolfolk, does that
- 11 ring a bell with you, Columbia County Sheriff's
- 12 Office took a gentleman by the name of Woolfolk
- 13 into custody?
- 14 A Oh, I'm thinking about when I worked
- 15 there. Yes, since I've been at the state
- 16 attorney's office. Yes, very much on the fringes.
- Yes, technically I was involved with

- 18 that.
- 19 Q Tell me what your involvement was.
- A There was what could be construed as an
- 21 in-custody death in Columbia County. I was
- 22 actually probably 70 miles away on the firing
- 23 range with the state attorney's office. We
- 24 received a phone call that they wanted -- the
- 25 sheriff's office requested a state attorney come 158
- 1 due to there being a possible in-custody death.
- 2 As a result of that, it would be
- 3 protocol for me as the investigator to accompany
- 4 that prosecutor. It took me an hour, maybe even a
- 5 little bit longer to get there.
- When I got there, the sheriff's office
- 7 was on the scene. There was Florida Department of
- 8 Law Enforcement officers there. They were the
- 9 lead investigators on it. I asked or offered my
- 10 assistance to the FDLE agents. I'm trying to
- 11 think.
- The only thing I did was they asked me
- 13 to go to the hospital and take some pictures. I

- 14 think when I went to the hospital, I think there
- 15 was a detective there, and he was taking the
- 16 pictures. I was there, but I didn't take the
- 17 pictures.
- So I was in and around, but I really
- 19 didn't do anything that I would deem substantial
- 20 in the investigation.
- What was his name? One of the
- 22 investigators called me up and asked me if I knew
- 23 his girlfriend's name, the deceased guy's
- 24 girlfriend's name. He just asked me that. They
- 25 are in Live Oak. I am in Lake City. I think he 159
- 1 thought I knew it. I said, no, I could probably
- 2 find out. I don't remember how I found out. I
- 3 think I got -- I think I made a phone call,
- 4 someone told me her name, and I called him back
- 5 and told him her name.
- 6 And then I believe our office -- someone
- 7 called our office -- an attorney called our office
- 8 and asked that I -- asked what I had done. I told
- 9 my office supervisor basically what I just told

- 10 you. They said something about don't contact the
- 11 girlfriend anymore, so I never contacted the
- 12 girlfriend. Okay, I don't have a problem
- 13 contacting her anymore, because I never contacted
- 14 her to begin with.
- 15 I haven't heard anything about that
- 16 since.
- 17 Q Did you prepare any kind of written
- 18 report?
- 19 A No.
- Q And when you went to the hospital, did
- 21 you have any contact with any family member of
- 22 Mr. Woolfolk?
- A I am assuming since he was there, that
- 24 they were probably there. No, I didn't talk to
- 25 any of them. If you say contact, maybe, you know, 160
- 1 coming in and out of the door possibly. That I
- 2 know of, no conversations.
- 3 Q And did you ever have any conversations
- 4 with the medical examiner in that case?
- 5 A Not that I know of.

- 6 Q Have you ever discussed that case with
- 7 any of the deputies that were on the scene and
- 8 involved in subduing Mr. Woolfolk?
- 9 A The only thing is Jeff Coleman, who was
- 10 in the training class with me, he was one of the
- 11 officers that was on the scene. I don't remember
- 12 or know if he fired his Taser or what his
- 13 involvement was. I remember they were trying to
- 14 take this guy in custody for an ex parte order, if
- 15 I remember right. That might not have been true.
- 16 It has been a long time. I don't remember.
- 17 He was there and he was present. He
- 18 asked me a few months ago if there had ever been a
- 19 final determination as a review by the state
- 20 attorney's office or criminal charges. I told him
- 21 I thought they declined to file it on that a long
- 22 time ago. I didn't know it was still pending. He
- 23 said, I need to go to a deposition. They said it
- 24 was still pending. I said I didn't know anything
- 25 about it.

1 If you consider that a conversation

- 2 about it per se, but he asked me if I knew
- 3 anything about the possibility of a criminal
- 4 charge, and I said I have no clue.
- 5 Q Did you ever do any sufficient
- 6 investigation to form an opinion one way or the
- 7 other regarding the role of the Taser in
- 8 connection with the death of Mr. Woolfolk?
- 9 A I don't have enough facts to even make a
- 10 determination on that case.
- 11 Q You don't know ultimately what the
- 12 medical examiner concluded?
- 13 A I have no idea what toxicology showed.
- 14 I don't have enough facts.
- 15 Q Have you had any conversation with
- 16 Mitchell Gray since January 16, 2004?
- 17 A That I know of, I have not seen nor
- 18 spoken to him since when I walked out of that
- 19 classroom to go to the hospital.
- Q Did you speak with anyone other than
- 21 Lieutenant Brewington prior to going to the Taser
- 22 training in January of '04?
- A About going to the training?

- Q Did anyone else ask you to go? Did the
- 25 sheriff ask you to go, anybody else ask you to go? 162
- 1 A They just --
- 2 He just came up to me, and I knew they
- 3 were looking to bring the Taser program to the
- 4 sheriff's office and ask me to go. I took that to
- 5 mean that I have been doing a lot of training with
- 6 the sheriff's office, and I took that to mean that
- 7 they needed me to go. It was a request. I can't
- 8 remember anybody else asking me or anything. I
- 9 can't say no for sure. I can't remember.
- 10 Q Have you ever been exposed to the Taser
- 11 on any other occasion?
- 12 A No.
- 13 Q What do you do for recreational
- 14 activities for fun?
- 15 A I have three kids, young kids. That
- 16 pretty much eats most of my time up.
- 17 Q Are you a fisherman, hunter?
- 18 A I like to fish, that's something I have
- 19 not been able to do a lot of because of my back

- 20 because of standing up. I used to go out on the
- 21 flats, like out of Horseshoe Beach. I still go
- 22 occasionally, but it's limited, because it hurts
- 23 my back too bad. I used to lift weights a lot. I
- 24 still get in the gym some, but now it's more --
- The doctors have told me that it is a 163
- 1 double-edge sword with it. They said it is not
- 2 going to make it worse right now per se if I was
- 3 to go lift weights.
- 4 They told me I can't do any kind of
- 5 squats, nothing that will put direct pressure
- 6 straight down on my spine. However, they told me
- 7 that the more I can get in exercise, not just into
- 8 a weightroom or gym, get that muscle stretched out
- 9 and work that muscle, it's going to hurt it more
- 10 now, in other words I will be sore from doing
- 11 that, but their hope is that in the long-term if I
- 12 do this now it won't hurt me as bad ten years from
- 13 now.
- So what I have to do now, I go in the
- 15 gym, and it is more therapeutic stuff, a lot of

- 16 stretching, a lot of light weights to try to keep
- 17 that muscle from being all stove-up and
- 18 contracted.
- 19 Q What kind of exercises do you do for
- 20 that purpose?
- A You name it. Well, strictly for my
- 22 back, I do rows. I do rows, lightweight rows,
- 23 where it stretches your back out pretty good and
- 24 contracts your back. I can't do pull ups; that
- 25 hurts my back. I can do the machines, pull down, 164
- 1 where you pull the bar down to you, again lighter
- 2 weights. That's pretty much the two exercises I
- 3 do that help with that -- helps with the spasms.
- 4 Q And how often do you go to the gym?
- 5 A It varies. It depends on work and
- 6 responsibilities at home. When I say this, I will
- 7 give you an average; two times a week.
- 8 Q Is there a particular gym that you go
- 9 to?
- 10 A M&M Fitness. It is just like the candy.
- 11 I'm sorry. I changed. I was having a

- 12 conversation with somebody about M&M Fitness
- 13 yesterday.
- 14 Future Fitness.
- 15 Q Do you have a membership?
- 16 A I have been at Future Fitness ever
- 17 since -- like seven years ago.
- 18 Q Do you have a membership there?
- 19 A Yes.
- Q And that's in Lake City?
- 21 A Yes.
- Q What street?
- A 1st Street, or Main. I think they call
- 24 it Main now.
- Q Do you work out with a trainer there?
- 1 A No.
- 2 Q What else do you do for entertainment or
- 3 fun?
- 4 A My kids. I mean, occasionally, you
- 5 know, I'll go hunting. I mean, twice a year I'm
- 6 lucky if I get to do that.
- 7 The weekends are, you know, yard work,

- 8 the kids. I have a pool. We spend a lot of time
- 9 in our pool out back in the summer.
- 10 Q Do you carry a firearm as part of your
- 11 employment now?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 Q Were you required to qualify with your
- 14 firearm?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q It is my understanding you also had some
- 17 coverage with Afleck that paid some of your bills?
- 18 A Yes. Well, it's paid directly to you.
- 19 I'm not sure if you are familiar with
- 20 Afleck. Depending on the injury, you get a
- 21 certain amount. For an MRI you get a certain
- 22 amount. For physical therapy, you get a certain
- 23 amount. It wasn't a lot of money.
- MR. ROPER: That's all I got.
- Thank you very much.

- 1 MR. MOYE: I do have just a few
- 2 follow-up questions, if I may.
- 3 CROSS EXAMINATION

- 4 BY MR. MOYE
- 5 Q Mr. Jewett, January 2005, you moved from
- 6 Columbia County Sheriff's Office to the state
- 7 attorney's office as an investigator?
- 8 A Correct.
- 9 Q When you left the sheriff's office, you
- 10 were a sergeant?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q Your dress code was what when you were
- 13 on duty?
- 14 A For the position I was in, full uniform,
- 15 green uniform with a badge, gun belt and body
- 16 armor.
- 17 Q Is that a flat jacket or body -- some
- 18 kind of body protection, bullet-proof vest?
- 19 A Yes. It is a class-three bullet
- 20 resistant vest.
- 21 Q You wear that uniform?
- 22 A Yes.
- Q A duty belt, do you know what that is?
- 24 A Yes.

- Q A duty belt for a law enforcement
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- 1 officer at Columbia County Sheriff's Office when
- 2 you were there consisted of what?
- 3 A Two and a half inch leather belt. And
- 4 then I will tell you the manditory things was
- 5 obviously the weapon and holster, magazine holder
- 6 which held two magazines.
- 7 Q Loaded?
- 8 A Loaded. Radio holder with radio. A
- 9 handcuff, with handcuff. A flashlight ring, and
- 10 then if you were certified in pepper spray, pepper
- 11 spray. I think that was all that was manditory.
- 12 Now there are things like a pouch to hold my
- 13 cellphone that I had to have, a knife on my belt.
- 14 Q How about the Taser weapon?
- 15 A The Taser weapon, I forget that. Yeah.
- 16 That made it real crowded, because it was big. It
- 17 was on the belt.
- 18 Q Did this belt have a double protrusion
- 19 of metal to keep it in place to buckle it with?
- 20 A Yeah. It was almost, for lack of a

- 21 better way to describe it, like a Santa Claus type
- 22 buckle. There was like a metal bar and two prongs
- 23 that hook over the top. From the front it looks
- 24 like it is buckled a normal way. In reality, it's
- 25 not.

- 1 Q Fully loaded as you were, how much did
- 2 that weigh?
- 3 A An estimate, 20, 25-pounds. It was
- 4 pretty heavy. Fully loaded, radio, flashlight,
- 5 all that stuff, the Taser, and that's just a
- 6 guess. I never actually loaded it. I would say
- 7 25-pounds.
- 8 Q How about the body armor, how much does
- 9 it weigh?
- 10 A I would say 3 to 5 pounds.
- 11 Q After your injury, after you returned to
- 12 work, were you able to make it through a complete
- 13 shift with this gear on?
- 14 A I made it through some shifts. Not
- 15 without it hurting. Not without pain.
- Q When you left in January of '05, could

- 17 you make it through -- could you work five
- 18 straight days --
- Did you work 12-hour shifts?
- A Twelve-hour shifts.
- 21 Q Could you work full-week shifts,
- 22 whatever it was, with a full set of gear on and
- 23 get through without taking breaks?
- 24 A No.
- Q By breaks, I don't mean lunch breaks -- 169
- 1 A No. As a matter of fact, especially on
- 2 day shift, usually about 3 o'clock -- 5:00 in the
- 3 morning to 5:00 in the afternoon, 6:00 in the
- 4 morning to 6:00 in the afternoon; at 2:00 or 3
- 5 o'clock, it would not be uncommon, people would
- 6 see me in my office with my vest off having to sit
- 7 down in my office.
- 8 Q And when is it that the pain was most
- 9 acute, riding in the car, standing?
- 10 A It varies. It's not --
- 11 Typically it's standing for long periods
- 12 of time, that's with that stuff on.

- 13 Again, stress. It just depends on
- 14 what's going on. But the longer I work, typically
- 15 the worse it would be.
- 16 Q It had become worse over time between
- 17 March and December of '04.
- 18 A It varies. It's hard to say. It got
- 19 worse, because it was pretty bad to begin with. I
- 20 don't know. It's really hard to say whether it
- 21 got worse or better.
- 22 Q You provided testimony regarding the use
- 23 of the Taser gun yourself twice on apprehension.
- 24 Did you have the assistance of your subordinates
- 25 during those -- both of those instances?
- 1 A Both instances there was at least one
- 2 other officer. The incident with the guy that had
- 3 the fugitive in his office, I believe there was
- 4 like three other officers there.
- 5 Q Now, your role in those arrests, I
- 6 believe you stated you fired your Taser weapon?
- 7 A Yes.
- 8 Q With regard to actually physically

- 9 handling the suspects, were you involved in that
- 10 part?
- 11 A No. No. Backup did the handcuffing and
- 12 all that.
- 13 Q When you left the sheriff's office in I
- 14 believe January of 2005, did you feel confident in
- 15 your abilities to take down a suspect in say a
- 16 crime scene, leaving the scene, burglary,
- 17 something of that nature?
- 18 A No; I still don't. I would be leery
- 19 about going to the ground or anything that
- 20 physical to fight with somebody. I haven't done
- 21 it -- I couldn't tell you the last time I had to
- 22 actually physically take somebody to the ground.
- 23 I don't think I have done it since my injury. I
- 24 would be afraid to do that.
- 25 If I had to, I would do it. Who knows 171
- 1 what would happen afterwards.
- 2 Q During that nine-month period following
- 3 your return to work after your injury, did you try
- 4 to avoid putting yourself in that position?

- 5 A As much as I possibly could.
- 6 Q Prior to your injury, on 1/16/04, what
- 7 were your plans as a law enforcement officer?
- 8 A To ride up the ranks of the sheriff's
- 9 office. You know, that was my -- at least the
- 10 plan right in front of me.
- 11 Especially when I finished my college
- 12 degree, I had looked at things like FDLE, Federal
- 13 Government, possibly. I hadn't really made any
- 14 definitive this is it, this is all. I was keeping
- 15 my options open. But my immediate goal was ride
- 16 up through the ranks of the sheriff's office.
- 17 Q Does each of those successively higher
- 18 ranks carry more pay and more responsibilities?
- 19 A Of course.
- 20 Q Now, where you are now with the state
- 21 attorney's office, can you rise through the ranks,
- 22 if you will?
- A No. There is no ranks. There's no
- 24 promotions there.
- Q Let me ask you, did you leave the 172

- 1 Columbia County Sheriff's Office because you
- 2 thought physically you needed to?
- 3 A That was the majority -- the main
- 4 reason.
- 5 Q Do you miss anything about being a
- 6 supervisory law enforcement officer?
- 7 A Of course I miss it. That's what I did
- 8 for 13 years. That's what I did in the military.
- 9 I love doing the supervisory work in the streets.
- 10 That's what I like to do. I'm not saying I hate
- 11 my job now, but that's what I like to do. Yeah, I
- 12 miss it.
- 13 Q I take it in your present job you don't
- 14 have subordinate troops, that type of thing?
- 15 A No.
- 16 Q You were asked about long-term plans.
- 17 You stated perhaps being able to one day return to
- 18 law enforcement in a command capacity?
- 19 A Um-hum.
- 20 Q Normally in law enforcement agencies
- 21 where does the --
- Command is the wrong word. Give me the

- 23 right word. Where does that command level begin?
- A Lieutenant. It depends on the agency,
- 25 what they consider command staff. Generally 173
- 1 lieutenant and above is considered command staff.
- 2 Q Would that be the progression from
- 3 sergeant to lieutenant?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 O And then to what?
- 6 A Captain.
- 7 Q Majors?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 Q When you answered that question earlier
- 10 regarding becoming a member of the command staff
- 11 in the law enforcement agency, were you implying
- 12 working your way up through the ranks as a law
- 13 enforcement officer?
- 14 A No, I don't work there anymore.
- 15 About the only way it will happen is if
- 16 either myself or -- either I will get elected to
- 17 sheriff or somebody else gets elected to sheriff
- 18 and then appoints me into a position.

- 19 Q Elected or appointed position?
- 20 A Correct.
- 21 Q Is that what you meant when you
- 22 responded to the question earlier?
- A Yeah.
- 24 Q About --
- 25 A You asked me what my ultimate goal would 174
- 1 be; that's what it would be. I don't know whether
- 2 it will happen or not.
- 3 Q I take it one requirement is a ballot
- 4 box, correct?
- 5 A One of them.
- 6 Q Or very close friend it would take to
- 7 get that appointment?
- 8 A Correct.
- 9 Q With regard to Exhibit 1, these
- 10 photographs, have you seen -- when the wires were
- 11 attached to you, were you bare shirted, without a
- 12 shirt on?
- 13 A No. It was over my shirt.
- 14 Q So that wire was actually taped to your

- 15 uniform shirt?
- 16 A No. I wasn't in uniform, I know that
- 17 for sure. I believe I had on a standard polo
- 18 shirt, polo -- not the brand Polo, but to describe
- 19 the shirt.
- 20 Q Pull-over cotton shirt?
- A Yeah. With a collar.
- Q When did you first realize that you had
- 23 these burn marks?
- A When I got home, I think. I don't
- 25 remember. Well, I figured they were there, 175
- 1 because I saw other people -- I saw Ali get
- 2 Tasered, and then some other people at the
- 3 sheriff's office told me that it leaves a tiny red
- 4 mark that goes away in a few days.
- 5 Q Ali was actually shocked with the gun?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 Q That's where they provided a block of
- 8 instruction on how to remove the barbs?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q Where did the barbs enter his body or

- 11 skin?
- 12 A It was his back. I don't remember
- 13 specifically. I don't remember how far apart they
- 14 were or where exactly on his back that they hit.
- 15 I believe they were pretty close to the center,
- 16 maybe 12 inches apart. But, again, it's been two
- 17 years. I'm not sure.
- 18 Q Now, have you seen the marks left on
- 19 other people having been Tasered in the fashion
- 20 that you were with the wires taped to the shirt?
- A Seen? I don't think I've seen. I've
- 22 never gone to the training. I never went -- as an
- 23 instructor, I never instructed after this and was
- 24 never present at the training. I can't say
- 25 anybody has ever showed me. There were people 176
- 1 that told me what their injuries are.
- 2 Q Has anyone seen your injuries who has
- 3 undergone the same kind of training and provided a
- 4 comparison?
- 5 A Yeah. There have been people that have
- 6 seen my photos. They have not seen my injuries,

- 7 they have seen the photos.
- 8 O Photos of --
- 9 A Of the burns.
- 10 Q Of Exhibit 1 here?
- 11 A And they said that there's nothing like
- 12 that, they had never seen anything like that.
- 13 Q And did they describe the marks left on
- 14 their bodies?
- 15 A They told me they were small, red --
- 16 just small and red, looked like a mild burn.
- 17 Q The one on the upper left shoulder looks
- 18 like it actually penetrated the outer layers of
- 19 the skin.
- 20 So I don't misstate what's in the photo,
- 21 do you recall that wound to your shoulder, looking
- 22 at it in the mirror or otherwise?
- A My back was hurt, so I wasn't doing a
- 24 whole lot of looking over my shoulder for a long
- 25 time. But I looked --

- 1 Pictures were taken, and then I looked
- 2 at the pictures. So it's kind of a hard place to

- 3 actually see. In the mirror I saw, yeah.
- 4 Q It looks like a hole in your shoulder?
- 5 A Yeah. It bled. It didn't bleed as much
- 6 that day, or at least that I remember, but it bled
- 7 for several weeks after that.
- 8 Q And this photograph you think was taken
- 9 within no more than two or three days?
- 10 A Maximum of 48 hours.
- 11 Q Now, the Taser wire that's taped to the
- 12 shirt in your case, I'm not very husky, but I'm
- 13 wondering how is it that the -- is the wire
- 14 actually touching your skin in any way when you
- 15 underwent this testing?
- 16 A Directly?
- 17 Q Yes.
- 18 A I don't see how. I had a shirt on.
- 19 They didn't pull the shirt up. I don't see --
- 20 Q They didn't tape the wire through the
- 21 threads?
- 22 A Not that I know of. I think I would
- 23 have felt that.

- Q How about the shirt, was it burnt?
- A Not that I remember.

- 1 Q Was the shirt tight against --
- 2 I can see on your shoulder, on your left
- 3 hip. Was the shirt tight against your skin?
- 4 A It is a standard shirt. Not this type
- 5 of shirt. It was a polo shirt. It was a standard
- 6 fitting shirt. It wasn't like a form-fitted
- 7 shirt. It's hard for me to say that exact spot,
- 8 that exact moment. I don't think it was tight up
- 9 there. It shouldn't have been.
- 10 Q The lieutenant that informed you about
- 11 the training class, I don't want to put words in
- 12 your mouth, you were instructed to attend this
- 13 training?
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 Q Is this the person that normally gave
- 16 you instructions if special assignments -- if you
- 17 were assigned -- given special assignments?
- 18 A He was the lieutenant, so he routinely
- 19 told me to do things or things that needed to be

- 20 done.
- 21 Q Was he routinely your supervisor that
- 22 gave you those kinds of instructions?
- A The way it is set up, there are two
- 24 lieutenants over the patrol division, Brewington
- 25 and Nydam. They may overlap. I could get 179
- 1 instruction from either one of them. Who filled
- 2 out my evaluation, usually that was Lieutenant
- 3 Ryan Nydam. It would not be uncommon for
- 4 Lieutenant Josh Brewington to also supervise me.
- 5 Q How much before the actual training
- 6 session were you made aware that you would be
- 7 going to it?
- 8 A It wasn't long. Weeks maybe, if I
- 9 remember right.
- 10 Q In a situation like that, would it be
- 11 training away from the department, or from the
- 12 sheriff's office -- who is responsible for sending
- 13 a list of attendees or things of that nature?
- 14 A Whoever was --
- 15 It depends on the type of class and in

- 16 what area it falls under. Probably one of the
- 17 patrol lieutenants. I don't know. I am assuming
- 18 since Lieutenant Brewington was the one getting
- 19 people to go and take care of the registration, I
- am assuming it would be him.
- Q Were you provided any materials that you
- 22 could go through in preparation for the upcoming
- 23 training?
- 24 A No.
- Q Now, the materials, and I think some of 180
- 1 them have been -- copies of materials have been
- 2 provided, Exhibits 4 and 5. You were given those
- 3 materials at what point in the training, if you
- 4 recall?
- 5 A I believe right at the beginning, when
- 6 we sat down he handed them out.
- 7 Q What was the format of the training?
- 8 Were you in the classroom?
- 9 A Yes. Lecture for the majority of it.
- 10 There was also hands-on practicing, showing the
- 11 guns were on the table and manipulating the Taser,

- 12 showing us how to reload it, take the batteries in
- 13 and out.
- 14 Q I take it there were several blocks to
- 15 this instruction?
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q After being given a block, would you
- 18 have a practical application?
- 19 A Yes. Like he would go over verbally how
- 20 to take the batteries in and out, and then we
- 21 would do it. Yes.
- 22 Q So during that time, where was your
- 23 attention directed?
- A Either at the instructor in front of us
- 25 or at the weapon doing -- or if we were standing 181
- 1 up doing something --
- 2 Q Did anyone give you an opportunity to
- 3 read the materials, did you have like a reading
- 4 session, if you will, before the classes began to
- 5 familiarize yourself with the materials?
- 6 A It was 30, 40-pages long. We didn't
- 7 have time to read the whole thing.

- 8 Q Did you go straight into instruction?
- 9 A Yeah. It went straight into
- 10 instruction.
- 11 Q You were asked, and I believe this is
- 12 Exhibit Number 4, it is your testimony today you
- 13 don't recall having seen this exhibit before,
- 14 which is a page out of -- proffered to be some
- 15 kind of manual?
- 16 A It was 30 or 40 pages of stuff. I
- 17 didn't have a chance to read it all. I am saying
- 18 I don't remember seeing it.
- 19 Q Again, what was your impression with
- 20 regard to being exposed to the Taser weapon,
- 21 Tasered with it, if you will, what was your
- 22 understanding with regard to that evolution or
- 23 event as it related to getting your instructor
- 24 certification?
- A My understanding, you had to be exposed 182
 - 1 to it in order to be an instructor. There was
- 2 some people in the class that had already been
- 3 exposed that were refreshing their certificate and

- 4 they didn't have to be because they had been. I
- 5 remember him telling them they didn't need to do
- 6 it because they had been. I was under the
- 7 impression that as -- to get the instructor
- 8 certification that you needed to be exposed.
- 9 Q Do you recall him stating if you have
- 10 done this before or been exposed to it before you
- 11 don't need to be exposed to it again?
- 12 A Yes. That might have been in response
- 13 to a question by one of the students that had been
- 14 exposed. I remember him making a statement there
- 15 was no need in them having to do it again if this
- 16 had already been.
- 17 Q You were asked whether or not you recall
- 18 being directly told you must attend -- you must be
- 19 exposed in order to get your certificate. You
- 20 don't really recall those exact words?
- 21 A No, I don't remember him saying that I
- 22 had to do it to get my certificate.
- Q Do you recall him stating that it was,
- 24 putting it the other way, that it was voluntary,
- 25 or if you would like to get Tasered, you may, but

- 1 it's strictly voluntary, you don't have to do it?
- 2 A He definitely didn't say that.
- 3 Q You were asked about what decision
- 4 process you might have gone through had you been
- 5 made aware of the potential or likelihood for a
- 6 injury. It was compared to that of playing a
- 7 basketball game as set forth in Exhibit 4. Have
- 8 you ever known anybody --
- 9 Have you ever been injured playing
- 10 basketball?
- 11 A No.
- 12 Q Have you ever known anyone to sustain
- 13 compression fractures to the thoracic vertebrae
- 14 while playing basketball?
- 15 A No.
- 16 Q Now, with regard to the likelihood of
- 17 making a decision with regard to whether or not to
- 18 participate in the activity and likelihood of
- 19 injury from that participation, would you also
- 20 consider the likelihood or the degree of injury?
- 21 A Of course.

- Q Had you been informed that there was,
- 23 albeit a minor or remote possibility of sustaining
- 24 serious back injury but nevertheless that
- 25 possibility, would you have reconsidered your 184
- 1 involvement in this Taser exercise?
- 2 A Yes. Definitely.
- 3 Q Do you have a yard at home?
- 4 A Yes. I own 5 acres.
- 5 Q Do you mow it?
- 6 A I keep --
- Well, I have to mow it, yeah. I can't
- 8 afford somebody else to do it, and my wife isn't
- 9 going to do it. I keep about three and half,
- 10 maybe four of it mowed.
- 11 Q I take it you have a riding lawnmower?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 Q Since your injuries, has this become a
- 14 more difficult chore for you to accomplish?
- 15 A Most definitely. If I had to single out
- 16 one thing that really sends my back into a stint,
- 17 it is the lawn mower in the summer.

- 18 Q Now, you are required to carry a firearm
- 19 in your present job?
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 Q You are still a sworn law enforcement
- 22 officer?
- 23 A Correct. Yes.
- Q Is there any concern with regard to
- 25 taking large amounts of pain medication and 185
- 1 carrying a firearm?
- 2 A Yeah. I mean, I don't --
- 3 I won't take the pain medicine while I'm
- 4 working, not while I'm carrying a gun. You never
- 5 know what could happen. Even though it is
- 6 unlikely, you still never know.
- 7 Q If the pain becomes one of those
- 8 episodes where it is more severe and you are at
- 9 work and you, of course, have your gun, what is it
- 10 that you do then?
- 11 A If at all possible, I go home.
- 12 Q Do you have an option with regard to
- 13 whether or not you carry a firearm at work?

- 14 A There's no policy that says we have to.
- 15 There are some of the investigators that don't.
- 16 But my position on that is I worked in Columbia
- 17 County for 13 years, I put a lot of bad people in
- 18 jail, sent a lot of bad people in prison for a
- 19 long time, people that I routinely see, people
- 20 that know me, are routinely around, and I feel
- 21 like I need to for protection. I am a law
- 22 enforcement officer and they know that. I don't
- 23 feel like I have an option.
- 24 If you ask my boss if I had an option, I
- 25 don't know what he would say, probably that I did. 186
- 1 Q When you are away from the office out in
- 2 the field investigating, are you required to carry
- 3 your firearm?
- 4 A Again, I don't know if there is a policy
- 5 that says that I am, but I feel like I am. I
- 6 don't feel -- most law enforcement officers I
- 7 think would say the same thing.
- 8 Q Do you recall the state attorney's
- 9 office when they are in the field conducting

- 10 investigations, do they carry their firearms?
- 11 A I believe they do.
- 12 Q I take it you are plain clothes
- 13 capacity?
- 14 A Yes.
- MR. MOYE: That's all I have.
- 16 REDIRECT EXAMINATION
- 17 BY MR. ROPER
- 18 Q I have a couple follow-up questions.
- Do you have arrest powers?
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 Q And what types of crimes or criminal
- 22 activity generally are you investigating?
- A Okay. It depends on different circuits
- 24 do things different ways as far as it comes to the
- 25 state attorney investigators.

- 1 I have the same powers that the law
- 2 enforcement officer that drives a patrol car down
- 3 the street has. If I see somebody committing a
- 4 crime outside, I have the power to arrest them.
- 5 For a practical matter, 99.9 percent of

- 6 my duties involve post-arrest investigation,
- 7 preparation for trial, witnesses that disappear I
- 8 try to find, things that come up after arrest that
- 9 we didn't know about before, they need somebody
- 10 interviewed, I do that kind of stuff.
- Occasionally I will get involved in a
- 12 criminal investigation from the ground up; that's
- 13 rare. If I do that, it is more of a paper crime,
- 14 frauds.
- For instance, right now I'm working a
- 16 case where an old gentleman paid for a new engine
- 17 in his truck and they didn't put a new engine in.
- 18 I'm working on proving that. So most of my stuff
- 19 is post arrest in the office. Occasionally,
- 20 though, it depends on any given day.
- 21 Q I got you.
- With respect to the manner in which the
- 23 leads were attached to your shirt, were they just
- 24 taped on there with like medical tape or something
- 25 like that?

1 A I want to say it is duct tape, but I'm

- 2 not 100 percent sure.
- 3 Q You are saying that the instructor
- 4 actually cut the lead where the probe was?
- 5 A I believe how they removed that, I don't
- 6 know.
- 7 I believe when he showed us, if I
- 8 remember right, how to remove them, then how to
- 9 dispose of them in the Sharp's container, or
- 10 whatever it may be, and then it was to bare the
- 11 wires with nothing on the end of them that were
- 12 then taped. That's how I remember it.
- Q So the wires didn't have like an
- 14 alligator clip or something like that on it that
- 15 was attached to you?
- 16 A I'm pretty sure taped. Again, it's been
- 17 two years. I thought I remembered it being taped.
- 18 Q Was it taped so just the very end of the
- 19 lead was attached to your body or was it --
- A It was behind me.
- Q It was hard for you to tell?
- A Hard for me to tell.

- Q It was the instructor that taped it to
- 24 you?
- 25 A I believe so. Yeah.

- 1 Q Now, I want to make sure I understand
- 2 exactly the circumstances. I don't want to be
- 3 mistaken on this.
- 4 Were you asked if you would participate
- 5 in the training or were you instructed that you
- 6 had to participate in the training?
- 7 A Well, it's not like, you know, there is
- 8 a general and I'm like a private in the Army and
- 9 they give out formal orders. You know, around
- 10 there, or around obviously most places you have a
- 11 work relationship with your supervisors.
- They come to me and they said, hey, we
- 13 need you to go to this Taser instructor class to
- 14 be a Taser instructor. I said okay. I took it as
- 15 they are telling me to go.
- What would have happened if I said no, I
- 17 think they probably would have -- they asked me to
- 18 do things before and I have just done them. I

- 19 think he asked me to do it and I did it. You
- 20 know, I took it as they were telling me to go.
- 21 Q But you were asked to go as opposed to
- 22 you contacting them and saying I would like to be
- 23 certified as a trainer?
- A I did not contact them. They approached
- 25 me and asked me to go to the training.

- 1 Q If I needed to get a copy of the
- 2 sheriff's office Taser policy, who would I contact
- 3 about getting that?
- 4 A Probably the best thing to do would be
- 5 your office has already been in contact I believe
- 6 with a woman named Beverly Jackson, who is the
- 7 human resources records keeper for the sheriff's
- 8 office. I believe she would be the best one to
- 9 contact. She would either handle it for you or
- 10 she would put you in the right place.
- Obviously they have a policy. I don't
- 12 know that is the policy that was in effect a year
- 13 ago or two years ago.
- 14 A new sheriff took office. You need to

Case 4:06-cv-00179-HLM Document 122-5 Filed 06/02/08 Page 132 of 138 15 be aware that the policy, while it may be the 16 same, it may also be different. I have not 17 reviewed it. MR. ROPER: Those are all the questions 18 19 I have. I guess the other thing is a 20 21 housekeeping matter. Since I have not had a chance to go 22 through these records, if there's anything in 23 24 there that would necessitate me asking a few 25 more questions of Mr. Jewett, I would like to 191 reserve the right to do so. I don't 1 2 anticipate it. I haven't had a chance to go through the employment records and there may 3 be something that I need to follow up with 4 5 you on, but it is unlikely. I appreciate your time. 6 7 (Thereupon, the deposition was concluded 8 at 4:05 p.m.)

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1	I have read the transcript of my deposition, pages	
2	1 through 191, and hereby subscribe to same,	
3	including any corrections and/or amendments listed	
4	below.	
5		
6	Date: JOHN JEWETT	
7		
8	Page/Line Correction/Amendmen	t Reason for Change
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and return the original errata sheet to MR. ROPER